

THE MCGILL DAILY

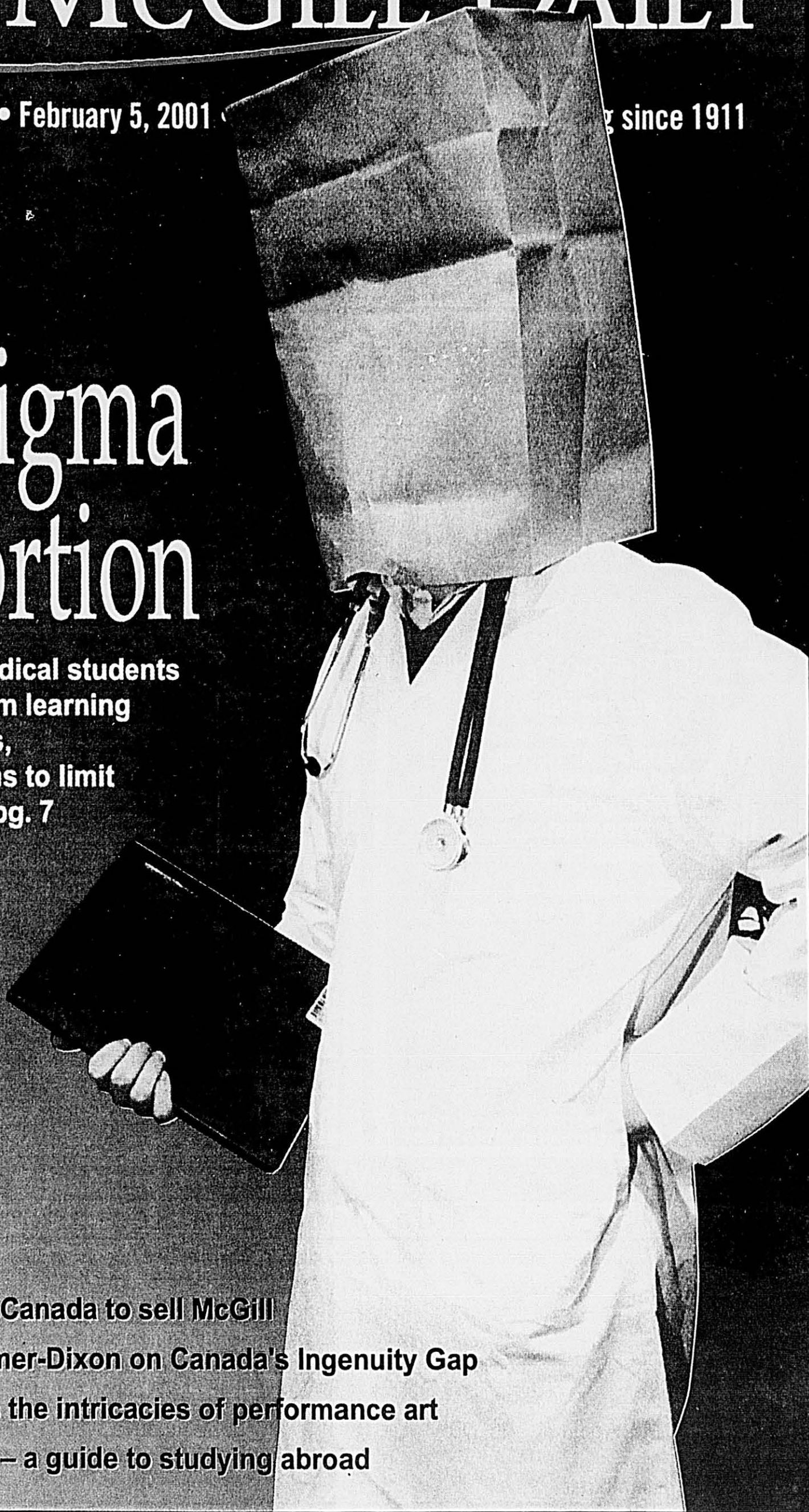
Volume 90, Issue 30 • February 5, 2001

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The Stigma of Abortion

Even pro-choice medical students
are shying away from learning
abortion procedures,
a trend that threatens to limit
women's options – pg. 7

- Shapiro joins Team Canada to sell McGill
- Author Thomas Homer-Dixon on Canada's Ingenuity Gap
- Coco Fusco reveals the intricacies of performance art
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Re: Elections McGill Advertisement in McGill Daily (of January 29)

Please be advised that the deadline for submission of nominations is Thursday, February 15, 2001 @ 5:00 pm. It is NOT Friday, February 16, 2001 as indicated in the ad.

Please be advised that there is only 1 position for Undergraduate Representative to the Board of Governors available. There are NOT 2 positions available as indicated in the ad.

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Concordia Newspaper Threatened by Petition

Students demand resignation of entire editorial staff and massive changes to The Link

BY SIMON RABINOVITCH
The McGill Daily

An ugly confrontation is brewing at Concordia after a group of disgruntled students started circulating petitions last week calling for the resignation of the entire editorial board of the Link, an independent student newspaper at the university.

Link staff are dismayed by the turn of events, saying that it represents a threat to freedom of the press and that the attack on the paper is altogether unwarranted. The editors believe that a small number of outspoken individuals, calling themselves the Link Accountability and Democracy Committee, are behind the petitions and are mainly motivated by personal grudges. The also fear that the Concordia Student Union, having received unfavourable coverage over the course of the year, is lending support to the campaign against the newspaper.

According to the petitioners, the Link "has repeatedly violated the standards of journalistic integrity and fairness by printing one-sided articles... and has refused to print letters to the editor or articles critical of the Link's internal processes and politics."

In order to address their concerns, the Accountability and Democracy Committee are demanding that the entire editorial staff resign, that all information pertaining

to the paper be made available upon request and that the writing of two letters be considered qualification for staff membership.

If the petitioners' requirements are not met by Feb. 12, they insist that a referendum be held, asking the student body if it supports the transfer of the Link's fee levy, assets and office space to a new publication.

It is doubtful, however, that the newspaper will acquiesce to the petitioner's demands without putting up a fight. Ariel Troster, the Link's editor-in-chief, sees the petition's circulation as an act of intimidation by a tiny group of frustrated students. Only three students constitute the Accountability and Democracy Committee, and Troster believes that they have taken personal offence to some of the newspaper's decisions. When it was discovered that Linda Charbonneau, one of the Committee's members, has close ties to the Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights group, the paper's editorial staff decided to not print a news article written by her about SPHR demonstrations. Troster sees this as the spark for the ensuing controversy surrounding the Link.

"When her story was cut, she made it into an absolute capital case," she said. "The allegations they are now making are baseless and not an indication of mass

support."

Troster is convinced that the tactics of the Link Accountability and Democracy Committee are potentially damaging for the independence of the newspaper, and must be countered as strongly as possible.

"It's not just about the funding of the newspaper. It's about standing up for journalists being able to practice their craft in a peaceful and respectful environment."

What's more, she believes that the Concordia Student Union has associated itself with the extreme position of the petitioners by not speaking out on behalf of the newspaper. Ever since the Link reported extensively on a \$200,000 internal fraud at the CSU uncovered in October, Troster feels that there have been some very pointed threats to the paper's autonomy.

"The student union wanted articles written in a certain way, and when they weren't, lots of letters started arriving. There is clear collusion between the CSU and these few, unhappy individuals. If it wasn't for them, this would not be an issue"

Nevertheless, CSU President Rob Green is quick to distance himself from the cause of the Accountability and Democracy Committee, saying that his union has no official position on the matter and that no council member has signed on to the petition. Instead, he claims that the paper's



editorial staff is trying to rope the CSU into the conflict and portray it as a villain.

In spite of his stake to neutrality, Green has no qualms about criticizing the Link in both its quality as a newspaper and its structure as an organization.

"I'm not going to sit here and tell you that we've been happy with the Link's journalism and we've written letters in to explain our side more... [The petition] could be going a bit overboard, but it's hard to say. You can't see financial records or minutes from meetings, and you can't have explanations to your queries."

The Accountability and Democracy Committee's Linda Charbonneau echoed Green's sentiments, arguing that the Link ought to become a transparent organization, accountable to all students at Concordia. Although her altercation with the paper stems from the personal issue of having her story pulled, she says that she has found that many other students have similar concerns.

"When there are grievances brought to the Link, it stays in the hands of the same, small group," she said. "We would like to see some structural changes to the Link to make it more democratic... According to its constitution, there just isn't much that we can do other than start the petition."

Troster firmly believes, however, that the petitioners do not speak for Concordia's student body at large, and she is confident that the Link would be successful if there proves to be a referendum concerning its future as an independent newspaper.

Team Canada Trade Mission to Include McGill

Trade officials and university administrators say higher education is a big part of trade mission agenda

BY JON BRICKER
The McGill Daily

Two delegates from McGill will board a plane to China next week to join federal government officials and several hundred of Canada's business sector elite in a high-profile trade mission.

McGill principal Bernard Shapiro and the McGill's Centre for International Management Studies Director Sylvain St-Amand will both represent McGill on this year's federal-led Team Canada trade mission which will send delegates to Beijing, Shanghai, and Hong Kong in search of public and private sector trade partners. Shapiro and St-Amand will join delegates from about 400 Canadian corporations and over 35 Canadian universities, colleges, and school boards.

"Universities like McGill are taking part because the Canadian government obviously sees marketing of Canadian higher education as an important sector in international business," said Office of International Research Director Dawn Conway last week.

Conway explained that Principal Shapiro will use the trip to try to forge new program links and research partnerships

links with Chinese schools and work on establishing McGill's name in the economically important Asian-Pacific region.

He will also have an opportunity to co-chair a summit that will bring together delegates from both Chinese and Canadian

"Universities like McGill are taking part because the Canadian government obviously sees marketing of Canadian higher education as an important sector in international business"

universities. Conway said the agenda for the summit will include promotion of research cooperation and academic exchange programs. The end result, she hopes, will be that schools in both countries will be better equipped to give students training that is more international in scope.

"I think Canadian universities want to graduate students that can really work in

an international environment."

As for St-Amand's participation in the mission that begins on Friday, Conway said that the international business guru's knowledge of the Chinese language and economy will go a long way to helping both McGill and Canada get the most out of the links forged during this month's mission.

According to François Lasalle, a spokesperson for the federal Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Team Canada missions also provide opportunities for Canadian universities to try to attract Chinese students.

"It is a widely known fact that the Chinese post-secondary education sector is not extensive enough to train even a significant portion of students in China," said Lasalle. "Therefore, there's some large potential for Canadian education [institutions] to recruit Chinese students."

But David Robinson, director of policy at the Canadian Association of University Teachers, said that by taking in part in a trade mission, universities are blurring the lines between the public and private sectors.

"I'm concerned because we've tended to be champions of universities as public institutions and not private ones that engage in international trade missions."

He said he also has concerns about universities' goal of recruiting the few Chinese students wealthy enough to afford the hefty price tag attached to studying in Canada.

"There's a big difference between universities trying to recruit more international students and seeing foreign markets as potential cash cows," said Robinson.

But international links between financiers and educators may not be all that's on the table during the mission that gets under way next week. Spotlight fell on preparations for the mission early last month when human rights advocates in Canada began to pressure the Canadian government to address its concerns with China's human rights record.

The Asian superpower came under fire in January when it was learned that a Canadian citizen who once taught at McGill had been among thousands arrested in China for practicing the rituals associated with Falun Gong, a spiritual movement that the Chinese government banned in 1999. Since Falun Gong was banned, participants in the movement and international human rights advocates have accused the Chinese government of initiating a propaganda campaign against Falun Gong and harshly

persecuting those in the movement. And although Canada's Zhang Kunlun has been released by Chinese authorities and returned to Canada, many insist that the persecution is still going on.

Dan Sky, a McGill student and a practitioner of Falun Dafa, a sect that is closely related to Falun Gong, says that he hopes the federal government and Team Canada delegates like McGill's share their concern with human rights issues with Chinese partners beginning next week.

"The Prime Minister will apparently be addressing this issue," said Sky. "I hope that everyone who goes can also figure out ways to raise this issue."

Sky, the organizer behind an upstart campus Falun Dafa club, said that he hopes that university administrators will tell their Chinese counterparts that dismissing professors who practice Falun Gong goes against notions of freedom of expression that universities should hold near and dear. He added that he has already written to Principal Shapiro asking him to please consider the human rights agenda during his trip to China.

"I've asked him to take whatever opportunities possible to address these concerns," said Sky.

McGill Bookstore Caught in Corporate Takeover

Trilogy's buyout of Chapters makes future of bookstore management uncertain due to

BY SIMON RABINOVITCH
The McGill Daily

Front page financial news hit close to home late last week as Chapters Inc., the Canadian book giant that runs McGill's bookstore, was taken over by financier Gerry Schwartz's Trilogy Retail Enterprises. The merger has sent shockwaves through the Canadian publishing industry, but Chapters executives put a positive spin on the merger's possible effects on McGill.

Jeff Swift, president of Chapters Campus Bookstores, said that the problems encountered at McGill may be ironed out over the next few weeks now that the acrimonious takeover struggle has been resolved.

"It's unfortunate in the past few months some of the bad experiences that our McGill store had to go through, due to financial troubles and the takeover question," Swift said. "All of that is behind us now and we expect to make improvements in the McGill bookstore immediately. It is full speed ahead for us."

Although Swift anticipates that Chapters Campus Bookstores will continue its operations at McGill, albeit under a different boss and perhaps a new name, he concedes that the decision is ultimately up to Trilogy's board of directors. Chapters has a contractual obligation to manage the university's bookstore, something Swift says cannot be broken on a whim. Nevertheless, the matter may not be as simple as that.

In a senate meeting two weeks ago, Vice-Principal Administration and Finance Morty Yalovsky told several angry professors that McGill was considering a review of its contract with Chapters. He said that the bookstore's management had been asked to provide a plan to address the problems the bookstore faced. Chief among these was shortages of textbooks experienced in January, largely due to Chapters' unpaid debts and strained relationships with suppliers.

"In the long-term, we will consider our plan of action at the end of this semester. We have the option to serve notice to Chapters, at which point we could look for other partners or revert to [running the bookstore ourselves.]"

Furthermore, Yalovsky pointed out that there is a no-assignment clause in McGill's agreement with Chapters, and if the university is unhappy with the change in ownership, it is within its rights to scrap the

management contract.

Alan Charade, McGill's director of ancillary services, says that Chapters has yet to come forward with a response to the university's request for an outline of how

campus book sales will be improved. "Once we get the report, we'll see where we go from there."

Meanwhile, Charade says that virtually all the credit holds on the McGill bookstore are off and that he expects to hear from Chapters within the week. When news first broke of Trilogy's takeover bid, and speculation began that Indigo may attempt a merger with Chapters, Charade expressed little concern over the possibility of a change in management.

"One of the considerations [when we first signed the bookstore contract] was that Chapters is a strong Canadian company," he said. "A takeover by Indigo wouldn't change that."

Trilogy began its takeover bid for the Chapters bookstore empire in early December, and on Friday they acquired control of 70.5 per cent of the company's shares. At the head of Trilogy is the husband and wife team of Gerald Schwartz and Heather Reisman, both powerful forces on Canada's business scene. Now that they have managed to capture the majority interest in Chapters, Reisman will likely orchestrate a merger between the titanic

company and her smaller chain of Indigo bookstores.

In an interview earlier this school year, Richard Janda, a law professor at McGill, questioned whether Indigo would perform well in the university environment. He was not positive that Indigo's business strategy would mesh well with the McGill bookstore's academic niche.

"Indigo has looked for many linkages with non-book products. They're understood to have a marketing savvy that Chapters lacks. We need a bookstore that's focused on ideas... it should be a bookstore that has leading academic literature. It may be that a strictly academic orientation isn't what Indigo wants."

Janda proposed at the time that McGill study Indigo's business practices carefully to ensure that the book retailer would meet the university's needs. As of yet, there have not been any announcements from McGill administrators regarding the approach that will be taken if Indigo does indeed go ahead and pursue a merger with Chapters.

— with files from Jon Bricker



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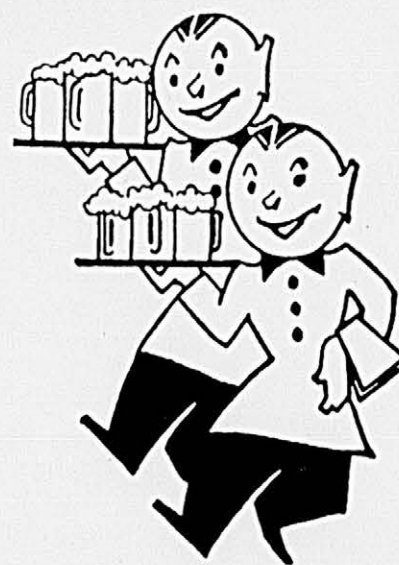
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EUS President Ordered to Apologize for Condemning Sexism, Racism in Plumber's Faucet

BY JAIME KIRZNER-ROBERTS
The McGill Daily

Engineering Undergraduate Society president Anjali Mishra has been ordered by her executive to apologize for a letter she wrote protesting a recent article which ran in the Plumber's Faucet called "Earth Girls are Easy."

The article describes the 10 top types of women who make "an easy kill," including "fat women," "Catholic school girls," and "strippers." The article is situated directly across from an article commemorating the Montreal Massacre, a 1989 incident in which a crazed gunman murdered 14 female engineering students.

Mishra's letter, which appeared in The Daily on Jan. 22, derided the Plumber's Faucet, calling the article sexist, distasteful, and insensitive. Mishra also opposed another article in the same issue, which compared human fecal matter to the Huxtable family.

The EUS council voted last week to condemn Mishra for writing the letter, accusing her of "advocating her personal views...without first consulting [EUS members]."

Mishra is shocked and angry about the reaction that her letter has received from

her council.

"I'm more than a little mystified," she said. "I'm extremely disappointed that I can't make the assumption that the EUS is anti-sexist and anti-racist, without first

"I'm extremely disappointed that I can't make the assumption that the EUS is anti-sexist and anti-racist, without first consulting others in the Society."

consulting others in the Society."

Mishra says that she will not apologize for the comments she made in the letter.

"It's difficult for me to apologize for something that I'm not sorry for," she said. "I don't see any shame in what I did."

But Sabino DeSimini, VP Administration at the EUS, thinks that

Mishra's decision to write the letter to The Daily was an inappropriate one.

"[Mishra] is the official spokesperson of the EUS, and when she speaks, she does so on behalf of all of us," he said. "It is necessary then that the statements she does make should be approved by EUS council."

While DeSimini agrees that the Plumber's Faucet article was offensive, DeSimini thinks that Mishra did not need to take her concerns public.

"The executives did not want to deal with an internal matter on an external platform," he said. "By going to The Daily with her comments, [Mishra] was not handling the situation in the best way, as far as we're concerned."

Alex Whitehouse, one of the editors of The Plumber's Faucet, agrees that the "Earth Girls are Easy" article was demeaning to women, but he says that it was not intended to be mean.

"It is a sexist article, but we felt it was in a grey area," he said. "While it did make fun of women, it was not serious in its intent. The author didn't mean it."

In the Faucet's masthead, it reads, "Our policy [sic] is to accept anything we receive unless it contains content that is racist,

homophobic, or sexist."

Whitehouse points out that the Plumber's Faucet has issued an apology for placing the offending article next to the one about the Montreal Massacre, but not for the article's actual contents.

"We would like the issue to be dropped," said Whitehouse. "Whatever is done, is done."

Erica Weinstein, a U3 arts student and Events Co-ordinator at the Women's Union, is outraged not only at the Plumber's faucet, but also at the EUS.

"I thought that the initial article was abhorrent and irresponsible on the part of the Plumber's Faucet," she said.

"The article was in no way satirical, it was playing on stereotypes. If the editors didn't realize that those comments were racist and sexist, I don't know what planet they're living on."

Weinstein thinks that Mishra did the right thing by "going public" with her criticism of the article, and says that EUS has no right to condemn her for it.

"I think that it's ridiculous that the EUS are trying to make her apologize," Weinstein said.

"If anyone should be apologizing it's the EUS executive, who tried to hush up the issue and ignore it."

THE SIDES

THE PLUMBER'S FAUCET WROTE:

"Cheap Ho's [sic]: For \$15 a pop, its [sic] the best back-alley deal in town..."

"...Nobody wants fat women..."

"...Skinny women just aren't enough. They're too hard and bony and frail and void of content..."

MISHRA WROTE:

"The issue is not one of 'political correctness,' vocabulary, or of minorities unable to withstand criticism, but rather one of bigotry."

"The editors of the Faucet claim that it is the timing and placement of the [article] that are a mistake. The mistake is rather in the prejudice it displayed."

Peel St. McDonald's Takes Union to Court

Courtroom stalling means still no collective agreement at only unionized McDonald's

BY MATTHEW LEVINE
News Reporter

The more than forty employees at the McDonald's on Peel just south of St. Catherine are still in a state of workplace limbo despite a legally approved vote to unionize in November of last year. The franchise has appealed the legality of the vote, and the workers are left waiting for a ruling from the Quebec Labour Tribunal, set for March 30.

During the interim period, executive members from the Peel St. location have been working with their parent union, Confederation des Syndicates Nationaux (CSN), on fundraising and training projects. Both union leaders and union organizers admit that the high employee turnover rates in fast food restaurants mean that their hard fought victory at Peel could slip away, and they know that by appealing to the courts McDonald's is betting on the same thing.

Seventeen-year-old Pascal McDuff, an organizer of the unionization drive and vice-president of the local, doesn't see himself abandoning the union he fought to create even if that means staying on at McDonald's after he finishes CEGEP.

"Working at McDonald's is boring and tiresome; nobody wants to stay here

forever," he said. "But, of course I want to stay and protect the union. I know that they want someone like myself, or one of the other organizers, to quit. That would be a victory for them. But we have fought for this and we won't quit now."

McDuff says that it is time for McDonald's management to face up to the union, and come to the bargaining table in good faith.

"We are a union now, but we still aren't getting our respect. We won't have the respect we need until we negotiate a collective agreement, the sort of agreement all of our members want," says McDuff.

The workers' are expected to issue several demands, focusing on improved salaries, safer working conditions, more say in their working hours and a clearer policy on promotions. Currently, burger flippers and cashiers who have been working at the Peel St. McDonald's are paid \$7.15 per hour after one year on the job. They said they will seek to raise that number to \$8, the rate paid at a Harvey's restaurant that is also represented by the CSN.

Under the stewardship of the CSN, Quebec's largest umbrella organization for labour groups, McDuff and a number of others organized a union vote last summer, before filing for certification on

August 2. Of the store's 44 workers, 75 per cent voted for unionization.

But the same day the application was made, franchise owner Michel Marchand worked feverishly to bring in 24 new employees and force a new vote, a move CSN officials call indicative of McDonald's notorious disdain for organized labour.

CSN President Marc Laviolette says that McDonald's recent court manoeuvres represent yet another attempt to thwart the process of unionization of their franchises.

"McDonald's is stalling for time in the courts. They are hoping that by pushing back the date [at which] they have to negotiate with the union the large turnover will allow them to decertify the union," said Laviolette.

But Laviolette says that the CSN is determined to fight for its workers rights at the Peel St. franchise.

"The union is secure," he said. Laviolette says that he is not afraid that McDonald's will simply close down the Peel St. franchise the way the St. Hubert franchise was closed after a successful union drive in 1998.

"The McDonald's on Peel and St. Catherine is the second largest in Quebec. They make money from it, they won't shut it down."

Laviolette says that Marchand and



Celine Heinbecker

Workers at the Peel St. McDonald's Franchise hope that a collective agreement isn't far off

other McDonald's owners should stop wasting resources resisting the union, and instead focus on hammering out a collective agreement.

"Marchand should bargain with the union. He won't close his McDonald's because people are unionizing. He'll still make money, but the young people want their share."

He hopes that success at the Peel St. location will encourage young people at other locations to instigate a union drive.

"[The right to unionize] is the only

right that is in the charter and yet you have to go underground to fight for it," said Laviolette. "The youth across Quebec can see our victory at McDonald's and know that we have the ability to unionize any workplace, no matter how anti-union."

CSN has a unionisation vote pending at another McDonald's franchise in the Montreal area, at Rawdon in Joieville.

McDonald's Canada and Michel Marchand, the franchisee of the Peel St. location, refused to be interviewed for this story.

Honorary Degree Veto Rules to be Changed

Twenty more votes would be needed to block degree

BY BEN ERRETT
The McGill Daily

McGill's Senate is considering a motion to change a 1936 statute that allows seven members of the decision-making body to block the awarding of an honorary degree. The proposed motion would increase the number of votes required to block a degree to one-third of the voting members, or 27 of the 80 Senators.

According to Vice-Principal (Academic) Luc Vinet, the move is simply part of a host

of revisions to the body's statutes.

"These types of voting proportions are standard," Vinet said. "It's really just bringing the procedure up to date. When the rule of seven senators was made, the Senate was a much smaller body than it is today."

Engineering Undergraduate Society President and student senator Anjali Mishra told The Daily that while the motion's original aim may have been to ensure that it would take a significant portion of the Senate to block a degree, it had become an effective means for student sen-

ators to wield more power.

"As I see it, students are the ones who are working for their degrees, and unlike other senators, they are all most of us have on our resumes," Mishra said. "It seems natural to me that the student members should have this kind of control over the image of the school, since they will soon be alumni. If the number were 12 or 13, it would still give students a veto. This motion removes it."

There are currently 20 student senators, including representatives from the

Students' Society (SSMU) and the Post-Graduate Students' Society (PGSS).

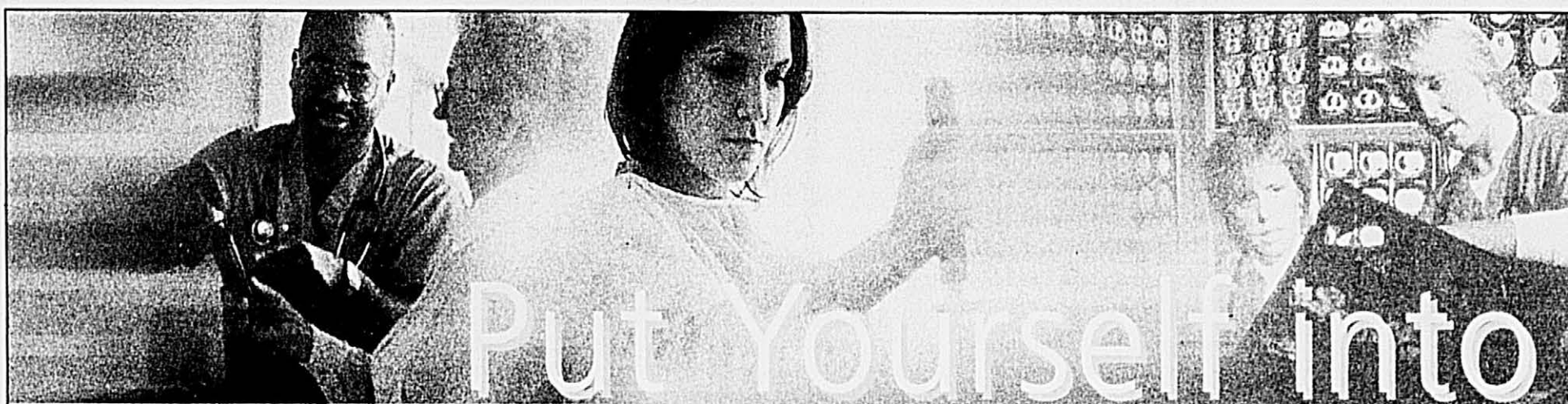
SSMU Vice President (University Affairs) Clara Peron does not see the motion as a significant reduction in student clout.

"Honorary degrees are important, but they are only a small part of what senate does," Peron said. "This was an old statute which had to be changed to fulfill its original function. Regardless, students still have a lot of clout on senate."

The last publically-known use of the rule

occurred last year, when The Daily reported that Royal Bank CEO John Cleghorn had been denied an honorary degree in a confidential session. According to sources, Mishra voted against the motion to grant Cleghorn a degree along with PGSS senators Ronert Sim and Stephen Déry, while then SSMU President Andrew Tischler and VP University Affairs Xavier Van Chau supported the move.

The motion was put forward by the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee, and will be discussed at a senate on Wednesday, February 14.



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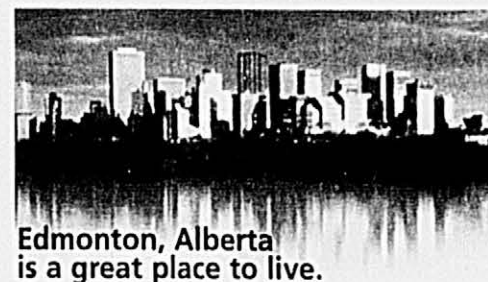
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**Capital
Health**

When the Curriculum Doesn't Include Abortion

How some medical students are struggling to reform the system

BY BARBARA HAAS
News Reporter

A FOCUS ON EDUCATION

One of the most common surgical procedures performed on women is one that few medical students ever learn, fewer plan to practice, and even fewer are willing to talk about.

And according to groups like Medical Students For Choice (MSFC), an international organization of medical students that have been fighting for better abortion care education since 1993, that has to change.

The MSFC co-ordinator at McGill, says that one of the biggest misconceptions about the organization is that they are pro abortion. "Med Students For Choice means just that: that it should be an option that's available for women and something that should be discussed between a woman and her physician, and not anything that should be legislated."

The statistics are surprising. According to recent statistics, between 30 and 40 per cent of Canadian women will have had an abortion in their lifetime. Moreover, about half of women who seek abortions are under 25, while 45 per cent already have children.

In spite of those numbers, however, few of the students in Canadian medical schools ever expect to provide abortion. According to many in MSFC, the reasons why aren't hard to understand.

Some medical students are simply scared. They are familiar with cases like Barnett Slepian's, an abortion provider who was killed in Buffalo in 1998. Of course, Canada has had its own share of violence. Dr. Garson Romalis, a professor at the University of British Columbia, and a well-known provider, has been the victim of two near-fatal attacks — once when he was shot near his Vancouver home and a second time last summer, when he was brutally stabbed.

Rachel is the coordinator of McGill's MSFC chapter. Like many others involved in MSFC, she doesn't want her real name published in connection with her pro-choice activities. She thinks that the fear of violence may go a long way to explaining the reluctance of students to learn abortion care.

"It's a very good reason to say 'I didn't go into medicine to be threatened.' Whether there's a threat on your life or the threat of feeling like people are going to hate or really judge because of what you do, for a lot of people that's not what they want in medicine. [But] for other people, they see this very much like a calling or something that needs to be continued. That was how I came to join Med Students For Choice and become a co-ordinator," she says.

But she also knows that the small number of medical school graduates willing to provide abortions cannot simply be blamed on a handful of pro-life activists who have turned violent.

Instead, Rachel says, the problem begins in medical schools. That may explain why MSFC, which began in the US in 1993, is beginning to establish chapters at a number of Canadian universities.

"It is presented in lecture style during OBGYN and during family medicine, but it's not taught in depth, really, and it's definitely not mandatory," says Rachel. Students do learn the procedure, she continues, "[but] it's definitely not presented as an easily accessible option. It's something that's easily avoided and a little bit harder to seek out."

What's more, training at other Canadian universities seems to be even less satisfactory.

Catherine, who also spoke under the condition that her real name not be used, is in her third year of medical training at the University of Western Ontario. She describes abortion education at her school as "not accessible to students."

The only talk of abortion that she's heard in classes, she says, was during a discussion of how to take a patient's medical history. There are no courses, she says, that deal with abortion issues or techniques. So, Catherine took advantage of the "externship" that MSFC provides, in which students are provided a stipend and the opportunity to spend a month working with abortion providers. Nonetheless, she doesn't know of any other students at Western getting that sort of training. "In the residency program, there's only been one resident in years who's shown interest in learning," she says. "At this point, it's not an openly discussed topic."

But according to many of those teaching at medical schools, enough is being done to give students the opportunity to go into providing abortions when they graduate.

"Every student passing through their clinical clerkship gets exposed to the subject of family planning and abortion with at least a one-hour session. They're made aware of when and where procedures are being performed and there's an invitation to show up if they want to see and learn more, but few avail themselves of that opportunity," says Dr. Paul Fournier, an obstetrician and gynecologist who teaches at McGill.

Dr. Fournier says that abortion, as a surgical technique, should be learnt during residency as an elective, and not in medical school, simply because there just isn't room in the medical school curriculum. "Here it may be that students' expectations are not realistic," says Fournier.

Dr. Bryan Mitchell chairs the department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Alberta and says that he agrees with Fournier. In fact, Mitchell says he was surprised by the level of "anti-choice" sentiment among his first-year students.

"There's not interest to do it, why force them to?" he says. He says that the curriculum at U of A includes discussion of abortion ethics and counselling, and that there are opportunities to learn abortion techniques during residency, but that the fact is, few students take advantage of that opportunity. "One in ten shows any interest in learning the procedure," which means about one resident every two years, he says.

However, according to many advocates of far-reaching abortion education in medical schools, like MSFC, that sort of attitude is dangerous.

Stephanie, a first-year medical student and a spokesperson for the University of British Columbia's MSFC chapter, thinks that neglecting to teach students about abortion-related issues, like counselling and post-operative care, puts the women who will choose to have abortions at risk. She says even doctors that are not abortion providers should be well informed on how to treat abortion patients.

"If they choose not to be part of the abortion, that's fine, but they're still responsible for the care," she says.

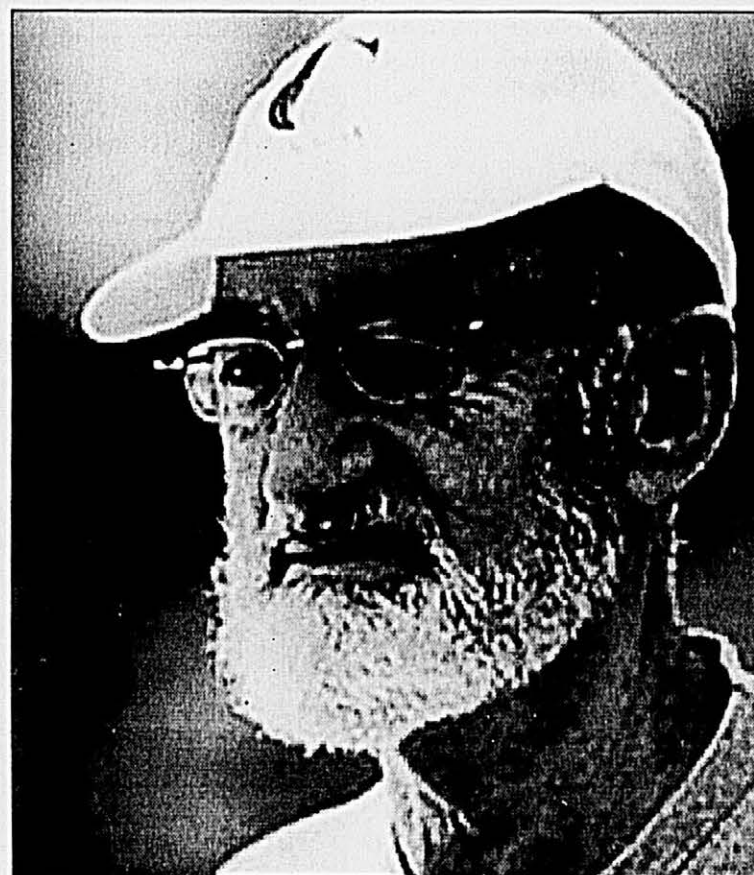
This is a feeling shared by many already in the business of providing abortions.

"I think our [hope to make] it part of the curriculum in medical schools is that people will understand all of what's involved with abortion care, including being able to make referrals, knowing what to tell your client if she comes to you and she's pregnant," says Genevieve Smith, co-ordinator and head nurse at Montreal's Morgentaler clinic. "Women are consistently being told that their abortion wasn't well done, that it was incomplete. People have told us that there's pieces of the fetus left when we know that we did a procedure on somebody and there wasn't even a fetus. For us, that's a problem."

AN ISSUE OF ACCESS

Due to the small numbers of medical students who are interested in providing abortions, MSFC representatives say that access to abortions may be threatened.

Henry Morgentaler, the founder of the clinic where Smith works, also had women's access to abortion in mind in 1988, when he challenged Canadian abortion legislation before the Supreme Court. At the time, section 251 of Canada's Criminal Code set out that women could have abortions only when they could prove to a hospital's therapeutic



Dr. Henry Morgentaler led the fight to overturn statute 251

abortion committee that their lives would be endangered by a pregnancy. Morgentaler, who had been accused of providing illegal abortion, convinced the Supreme Court that section 251 meant that many women did not have sufficient access to abortion. The Supreme Court struck down section 251 and, to date, Canada remains without any law on the books regarding abortions.

But according to Smith, for Canadian women in many rural regions, access to abortions remains a problem. Data shows that, in most provinces, the majority of abortions are performed in a few locations. For example, in Quebec, 75 per cent of abortions have to be performed in Montreal, while in PEI there are no abortion facilities at all.

"They were finally able to train a doctor in New Brunswick at the Morgentaler clinic," says Smith. "One of our [Montreal] doctors was flying, every two weeks. That was happening for years, that someone was flying to New Brunswick to provide services."

Rachel agrees. She says that while the situation in Canada is not nearly as bad as in the US — where, in 1996, 86 per cent of all counties lacked an abortion provider — the problem of access continues to loom large in Canada. "Rural communities are unable to attract people who are trained in this care. It's difficult to attract physicians to rural areas just to practice medicine," she says.

Adds Stephanie, "if a physician [in an isolated area] isn't willing to provide the full spectrum of services, that physician shouldn't be there."

Furthermore, MSFC is also concerned with access to private abortion clinics, which are only partially-funded in most provinces. Abortions performed in clinics represent 30 per cent of the Canadian total and are an alternative to hospitals, which often have long waiting lists.

That's a problem, Rachel says, because it is critical for a woman to be able to get an abortion as soon as she has made up her mind to do so. "You can't wait with an abortion. I think it's something that's acute, in that sense, and if the hospitals aren't capable, aren't willing, to keep up, a clinic will keep up with that. I think the Canada Health Act actually supports the idea of paying for clinic abortion care if it's not provided in hospitals and supports that all provinces should include it in their coverage."

MAKING CONNECTIONS

In the end, MSFC is seen as a way to begin building networks of support for pro-choice students. "With MSFC, I see a resource to allow people to see that, 'yes, there's other people interested in this and wanting to do this.' And we can network and see each other as a collective in which it's easier to say 'This is something that's important,'" Rachel says.

Ultimately, MSFC's members think the role of a physician is to let a patient know her choices, and to provide assistance without judgement.

"One of the benefits of being in medicine is learning a lot about humanity, what it is, not what it ought to be," said Dr. Fournier.

news-briefs



MANITOBA CREATES ADVANCED EDUCATION MINISTRY

The Manitoba Government has created a new department solely dedicated to post-secondary education, Premier Gary Doer announced last week.

"We are creating a new high profile ministry to focus on Manitoba's colleges and universities," Doer said last Wednesday. "The strategic development of advanced education in this province is a major part of our plan for Manitoba's future."

Diane McGifford has been appointed minister of advanced education, making Manitoba the fifth province with a ministry devoted to higher learning.

McGifford had served as Manitoba's culture minister before being assigned to the new post. She was an English professor at the University of Winnipeg before beginning her political career.

The new minister said making post-secondary education more affordable will be high on her list of priorities. She wouldn't comment on the likelihood of Manitoba's students receiving another tuition freeze and rollback, as they did last year.

However, the new minister said she would work to keep tuition fees at bay.

"We need to continue to make university affordable for students," she said.

"We can't provide university education unless we make it affordable, so that's high on my list of priorities."

Robert Marriott, Manitoba representative for the Canadian Federation of Students, said his group will be calling on the new minister to ensure tuition costs are kept in check.

"We're hopeful she'll be committed to keeping the freeze and reducing [tuition] fees," he said.

Marriott said his organization was generally pleased with the creation of a separate ministry for college and university affairs.

"This is something we've been advocating for a long time," he said. "It's a sign [the government] is finally taking post-secondary education seriously."

University of Manitoba Students Union president Steven Fletcher also praised the appointment, although he cautioned McGifford to take notice of what he calls the U of M's "unique needs."

"I hope the new minister understands we're by far the largest post-secondary institution in the province," he said. "The U of M has professional programs that other institutions in the province don't have."

Robert Chemonas, the president of the Manitoba Organization of Faculty Associations, credited the province for giving "special attention" to post-secondary education. Chemonas commended the NDP for last year's tuition freeze and said McGifford should work to ensure the freeze is maintained. The province must also increase the operating grants it gives to institutions, he said.

-by David Leibl, Central Region Bureau Chief, CUP

PRIVATE HIGH-TECH PARK PLANNED FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

Student and community groups at the University of Victoria are skeptical of a plan to build a private high-tech research and manufacturing facility on campus.

UVic's administration is in the final stage of negotiations with Vancouver-based Discovery Parks Inc. to build what they call "a facility for UVic spin-off companies and others collaborating with UVic researchers to develop technologies" on campus.

The university would grant a long-term

lease of the land to Discovery Parks Inc. for building and operating the facility at no cost to UVic. University vice-president of research Martin Taylor said the university would be guaranteed a "minimum financial return on the lease and have the right to approve the building's design and tenants."

Approval for the park may happen as early as this spring.

"We are in what we hope will be the final stage of negotiations with Discovery Parks, and that is to finalize the agreement," said Taylor.

While Taylor contends this is not a

"profit-making venture," he did say a similar project at the University of British Columbia generated cash benefits to the university "in the order of hundreds of thousands of dollars."

But the project has skeptics, including UVic's student society. Director of academics Kari Worton calls the deal an inefficient use of UVic land. "It doesn't make sense to me to bring in a private company and have them build on our land when we might need to use that space for ourselves."

Worton is also concerned that a

conglomeration of private companies conducting business on university land will compromise the autonomy of the institution.

Although the university said the new building will not affect nearby community gardens, Camilla Barry, co-ordinator of gardens, said there is a "lack of support for preserving the garden." Approximately 15 people use the garden to grow their own food. Last year the group donated 500 pounds of food to the local food bank.

-by Jason Gondziola, The Martlet

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Aboriginal Women in Prisons Need More Attention: U of Saskatchewan Prof



Brie O'Keefe

BY ROBERTO ROCHA
The McGill Daily

Chancellor Day Hall.

Aboriginal women in the prison system were described as an "afterthought to an afterthought" last Thursday when Annie Patricia Monture-Angus, professor at University of Saskatchewan and lifelong advocate of aboriginal rights, spoke at

Monture was part of a special Task Force on Federally Sentenced Women and a contributor to a groundbreaking report that has earned international recognition for Canada. The report, called "Creating Choices" focused on the treatment, or rather, mistreatment of Aboriginal women in Canadian prisons.

According to 1994 figures, Monture said, 15,500 men were serving federal sentences, and only 330 women. This ratio causes women to be treated as "afterthoughts" in the prison system.

"Women [in Canada are] serving in a system designed by men, for men, to house men, and modelled on male-committed crimes," Monture stated. She said the history of female incarceration in Canada raises many questions about our nation's human rights practices. From 1934 to 1995 there was only one Prison for Women (P4W), in Kingston, Ont. Prior to that, from 1914, women were placed in a separate segregation facility in a male maximum-security prison. And before that, they were housed with men, performing such labour duties as cooking and mending uniforms for the men. "Incarceration of women has been built on a huge stereotype about what women should be trained to do," Monture commented.

Monture stated that the majority of fed-

erally sentenced women today are aboriginal, which she attributes to a combination of racial prejudice and misunderstandings of the aboriginal situation, namely the situations of their home communities and their complete "disempowerment". Many of these women were born into violent homes and were sexually abused, she says.

"Women did not have the opportunity to make good choices in their lives," she said. "For me, if it came down to a question of choosing to steal to feed my kids, let me assure you, that is not a question."

Monture asserted that compounding the predicament faced by aboriginal women in Canada is the state of women's prisons in the country. In 1977, a parliamentary committee concluded that the then-current P4W was "unfit for bears, let alone for people." The geographical isolation of the prison also proved a great obstacle for women trying to reintegrate after release. "How can a woman make choices about where to live and work...from 3000 miles away?...She may not

even know she'd see their families at all during her sentence," said Monture.

The Task Force called for P4W to close and the government to build five new facilities for women. Their report outlined five basic principles to improve the lot of federally sentenced aboriginal women: empowerment, meaningful and responsible choices, respect and dignity, supportive environment, and shared responsibility (among levels of government, service agencies, volunteer organizations, businesses and community for the development of support systems and the continuity of service).

The report met with great approval, and many countries, including the US and Australia, are looking to adopt its principles. But the fight is far from over, said Monture. The next step is the healing process, which demands much dedication and understanding.

"It's no good just getting the thorn out," she said. "You have to get the infection out too."

New Student Mag Hits McGill

BY CHRIS BARTLETT
News Reporter

Foreign Policy continues to have a strong voice at McGill as the university's student run academic journal, The McGill International Review, published its second issue this past January.

The MIR started last year as a way to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the international conference of McGill Model United Nations.

The result is the biannual publication, which is currently financed by the United Nations Students Association of McGill, and with additional sponsorships from faculties and the McGill Alumni Association.

Although the magazine has only put out two issues, it is obvious that the students involved are not limited in their vision for the paper. "Are far as I am concerned, there is nothing else available in

this niche in Canada. I don't see why we can't rise to be a leading academic foreign policy journal," asserts Editor-in-Chief Clarisse Kehler Siebert, who doubles as a UI International Development Studies and Political Science Student.

The MIR has already been successful in attracting high-profile patronage: last year's inaugural issue featured articles written by prominent Canadians such as Madame Justice Louis Arbour (the former Chief Prosecutor of War Crimes in the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia) and Retired Major General Lewis Mackenzie (past leader of the UN forces in Yugoslavia). The current issue, whose theme is the internet and global politics, includes an article by CRTC Chairperson Françoise Bertrand and an interview with then Minister of Foreign Affairs Lloyd Axworthy.

The fact that The MIR is student run but contains no student contributors has attracted criticism from those who believe that the role of student publications is to publish student articles. But Siebert disagrees and says that not only does the lack of student writing distinguish the magazine from others, but also presents a unique opportunity. "It is very educational to find out how to run a magazine... It's really incredible to meet and talk to these people and to find out what they do."

Building a magazine from the ground up was a very challenging experience according to Siebert, and she feels that she has gained many new skills as a result.

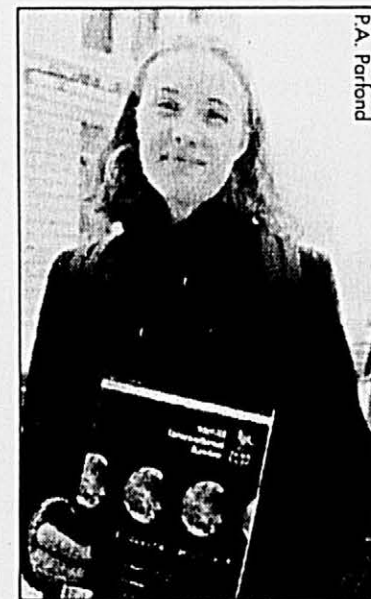
"It is very educational to find out how to run a magazine and that has been a real part of my education here at McGill."

Siebert says that running a magazine requires far more skills than she ever would have thought.

"Basically, putting out a magazine entails everything from finding funding and filling ads, which is very difficult when your magazine doesn't exist yet; to finding out where you buy picture rights; where you buy a barcode or a ISBN number; how you find a printer. What kind of paper do you use? You have to choose ink and gloss. You have to find someone who wants to do layout."

The MIR also focuses on a much broader audience that just McGill, the magazines circulation of 1000 copies is divided among Chapters bookstores across Canada, Canadian embassies and, academic libraries, and among subscribers.

For more information about the McGill International Review, contact Clarisse Siebert at mir.editor@unsam.qc.ca or at 398-6816.



P.A. Porland

MIR Editor in Chief Clarisse Kehler Siebert

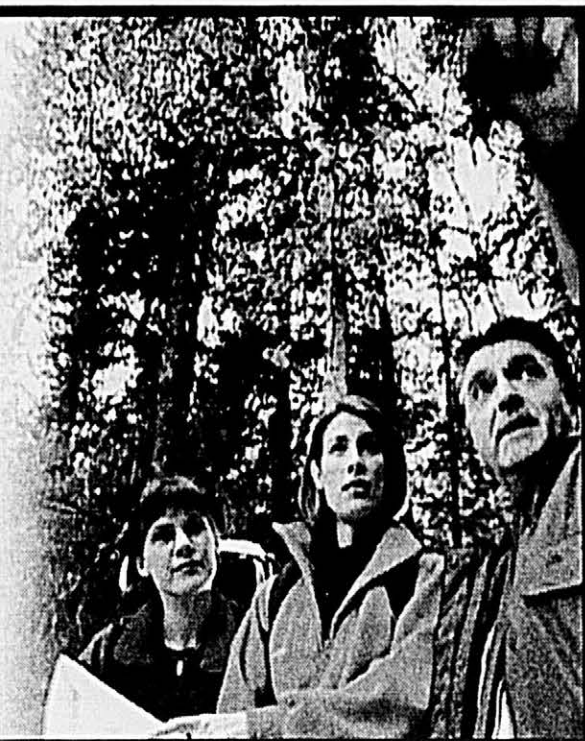
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Press Freedom Threatened at Concordia

editorial



Although Engineering Undergraduate Society President Anjali Mishra is justified in her public criticism of The Plumber's Faucet, there are times when student leaders' meddling in the affairs of the independent student press goes too far. This fact is all too familiar to students at McGill, where the SSMU is notorious for its disregard for freedom of the press - which we consider a fundamental institution in

any properly functional democracy.

Not to be outdone, however, are our friends across town at Concordia. The independent newspaper there, the Link, has recently found its own sovereignty under attack from individuals aligned with student government, as well as the group Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights.

A small group of students at Concordia, upset at alleged factual errors in an article published by the Link, have been circulating a petition. The three students, calling themselves the Accountability and Democracy Committee, threaten to overthrow the newspaper's Board of Directors, dismiss its entire editorial staff, cut its funding, seize its assets, and evict it from its office space.

What makes this situation all the more worrisome are allegations linking the petitioners to Concordia's student government,

the Concordia Student Union. The Link claims to have evidence of a meeting between CSU VP Communications Tom Keefer and two SPHR supporters, discussing ways of retaliating against the newspaper, including the possibility of cutting its funding. Additionally, at least one member of the Accountability and Democracy Committee is confirmed to have a friendly relationship with members of the CSU Executive.

Of course, the Link's extensive coverage and critical editorial stance of the \$200,000 internal fraud uncovered at the CSU in October does not help matters for the paper. The CSU has tellingly refused to denounce the attempted infringement on the Link's independence.

No matter what legitimate concerns the three members of the Accountability and Democracy Committee may have

with regards to the Link, the threats they have made are a puerile and counterproductive alternative to the constructive dialogue they are unwilling to initiate with the Link.

Nonetheless, mere paper-tiger posturing on the part of a handful of reactionaries is hardly something to be concerned about. The true story here is the CSU's disappointing and puzzling stance on the matter, which is not only neutral but borders on tacit support. Although it is generally to be lauded for its unwavering commitment to student democracy, the CSU this year has made serious blunders which have hampered its credibility among Concordia students. In refusing to support the independent student media, the CSU Executive risk further undermining their already-waning status amongst the electorate.

Faucet Critics are a Credit to their Faculty

editorial



The absurd thing about the controversy over the Plumber's Faucet is that those who wish the story would fade away seem to be actively fanning its flames.

There is no need to further review the now-infamous racist and sexist comments published in the December issue of The Plumber's Faucet, the Engineering

Undergraduate Society's student newspaper. Neither is there a need to argue here that Anjali Mishra's condemnation of these comments is justified. Mishra was merely pointing out the obvious. The EUS should commend her for demonstrating that their organization has a zero-tolerance policy towards such attitudes. Instead, they chose to accuse her of overstepping her mandate as an EUS representative. Last Monday, the EUS council passed a motion ordering Mishra to issue an apology for her letter, on the grounds that the letter was written without the approval of the council.

Though Mishra was identified as the president of the EUS in her letter, she at no point claimed to be speaking on behalf of the EUS. Granted, she could have chosen to identify herself as simply an engineering student. However, she is a key member of the Engineering student body and her

position as such not only entitles but compels her to work for the betterment of her faculty. This obligation includes speaking out against sexism and racism. Her words, and those of Philippe Gohier, are a potent defence against those who would stereotype all engineers on the basis of an unfortunate attempt at humour. The EUS council is lucky to have members who aren't afraid to speak their conscience.

Obviously, the Faucet editors did not expect this kind of reaction to their work, and the EUS is embarrassed by it, as they should be. But the best possible outcome to this situation is an open and frank discussion of why such articles would appear in the first place. It would be easy to say that it is because such attitudes still pervade the Faculty of Engineering. Thankfully, Mishra and Gohier prove that this is not the case.

letters



A LETTER TO THE FEMBOT

I often read Fembot's column in order to see what radical statement she is impressing on our minds, waiting for her to make a mistake so I could write to her and force her to print a retraction. This is the week.

In her article entitled "Revisiting Roe vs. Wade" she says things such as "I'm sure, Roe, that it was hard to hear ... news of the prez's announcement to restrict U.S. funding to international family planning groups that council women on and provide access to abortion...his plan to ban certain late-term abortions, resurrect a domestic gag rule that was thrown out by the Clinton Administration, and order a review of the FDA's recent approval of RU-486."

Jane Roe, whose real name is Norma McCorvey, would beg to differ with her. On the 25th anniversary of this legendary case, Jane Roe publically said "I'm very sad [about the anniversary.]" If you would have done a little research to make your column credible, you would also know that Jane Roe had three kids by the time she was 21, and has never had an abortion. She mentioned that she wouldn't have been allowed to abort the third child for the sake of the case, but said "I was too far along in my pregnancy to do so...I wouldn't have done it [anyway]."

As far as Fembot's comments concerning the President, Dubya stated that he would have the Secretary of Health and Human Services review the safety of RU-486. If this drug is deemed safe (there are some chemicals used in it that are in question) there will be no need for abortion clinics, as the procedure will be kept confidential between doctor and patient. If technology allows us the simpler means of this controversial subject, why not take advantage of that, as long as it isn't a serious risk to our health?

We all have the right to state our opin-

ion (freedom of speech and all that jazz), but if Fembot continues to state hers, she ought to use her head (and the facts) if she insists on playing the reporter game.

Jessica White

U1 Chemistry and Math

A BETTER ROUTE FOR THE BOOKSTORE?

I am a third year Engineering Student at Queen's University. I am also The Director of Operations of the Board of Directors at the Queen's Campus Bookstore. I read your article on the McGill bookstore and would like to offer a model which could bear some investigation.

The Queen's Campus Bookstore is a student owned and operated corporation and has been ever since two engineering students opened it in 1909. It is mostly run by a board of directors (Queen's University Engineering Society Services Incorporated) and a dedicated full time staff. Our mandate is to get students courseware at the lowest possible price. In accordance with this policy we sell courseware at 9 per cent below publisher's suggested retail price.

And even though we are a non profit organization we still manage to turn a profit every year which is then used to give students an even bigger discount. I urge McGill and its students to look to Queen's as an example and explore the possible of opening a student owned and operated bookstore.

Adam Janikowski

Queen's Applied Science 2002

Queen's Arts & Science 2003

OFF WITH THEIR HEADS

In light of the critical responses by two undergraduate students of the Faculty of Engineering to the sexist and racial slurs published in the Plumber's Faucet (Phil Gohier and Anjali Mishra-President of the Engineering Undergraduate Society), I think that it is fair to conclude that the majority of the undergraduate students do not condone the humor (or lack of intelligence in my opinion) displayed in the official publication of the Engineering

continued on next page

Write for

THE MCGILL DAILY

News Meetings:

MONDAYS 4:00

Culture Meetings:

TUESDAYS 4:00 PM

Mind&Body Meetings:

TUESDAYS 4:30 PM

Photo Meetings:

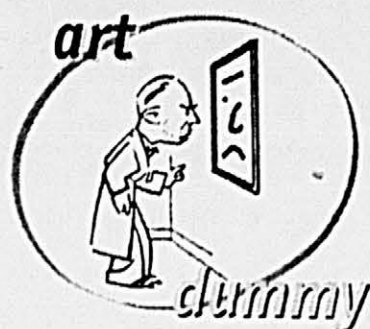
TUESDAYS 5 PM

EVERYONE WELCOME!

MEETINGS WILL NOW BE HELD IN
THE SHATNER CAFETERIA

Surveillance Cramps Subway Revelry

How are we supposed to have any fun without drunken routs?



BY JOHN ORTVED

These are strange times and I know this because I found myself on a train heading West this morning. It was early and I wasn't sure how I'd got there. I was waking up from a nap that encompassed the train's departure, the breakfast service and the entire stretch of land between Montreal and Kingston. My first instinct was to curse violently, not at the Via employee who had dared awake me from my hibernation, but at my accursed associates whose grand idea for a prank it had been to stick me on a train at 6:30 in the morning. As my mental stability returned to me, things came into focus and I knew where I was going. Oh Dorothy, Toronto is my Kansas and Via my twister.

The night before was a tremendous affair; drinks at the club, maple syrup and gin in the woods, then ballroom dancing at the Ritz. The whole affair had left me quite exhausted and around 5:00 a.m., I had decided a visit to my home town was in order. While the details could fill this paper, let's just leave it that I ran into some friends from home while 'ballroom dancing' and apparently some old debtors, thought disappeared, were kicking about the TO. I'm not one to let a pound of flesh go uncollected here and there, so I packed my knives and got on the very first train back home.

A lot of background, I know, but these twisted little affairs require some explanation. I have blurred memories of the night before; pizza just out of the oven at 1+1, my

friend Aziz bent over a fire hydrant and a stadium full of people chanting my name. Yet nothing that occurred last night, nor anything in the past months (with the sole exception of seeing a mouse balanced on a cat's back, balanced on a dog's back) could prepare for the shock as I read the subway posters concerning the new Toronto Transit Commission Special Constables.

They (they being the fools and psychopaths who run for city council) have decided it is a good idea to swear in subway security guards as official officers of the peace and give them the same rights as policemen on all subway property. That means you don't have to leave the subway to be held by one cop, have a telephone book placed across your chest, then have the other pig smash it with his nightstick; now security guards can do it too. The problem of security guard brutality and the amount of power they hold has been addressed by every publication from The Globe and Mail to Macleans, but like so many episodes of *Who's the Boss?*, the message has been quickly forgotten.

I think of the children first. Between the ages of fourteen and seventeen, any presence of law or authority on the subways would have completely destroyed any and all opportunities for the transportation of illicit substances before any of us were of legal drinking age or had cars. You can also kiss goodbye displays of public drunkenness and any old fashioned brawls that fill the void between trains. But more pressingly, the presence of peace officers who are not trained as such and whose respect for the law is probably comparable makes me as afraid and angry as if the one person who knows my secrets has decided to write a book.

This all goes back to mayor Mel. Mel Lastman. Mel from hell. Mel whose poor planning forced Toronto to call in the military when it snowed. Mel who supported the megacity. Mel who has just realized his idiotic spending has placed Toronto in a

hundred and twenty-five million dollar debt. Mel who is going to spend another twenty-five million on an olympic bid we are not going to get. Mel who will leave my city limping in disgrace like Robert McNamara after Vietnam, or Al Gore after his humiliating defeat at the hands of a moron who thinks the answers lie in nuclear defense systems and Jesus.

Then again, these are the men that make the world turn. Sadly, but truly; these are the fatboys that count. It is men like Mel Lastman and George W. Bush and Mike Harris who are often at the helm and the rest of us are left to swim in oil as the ship goes aground.

In Canada, flotation devices are quickly disappearing; the government is giving us consumers much to hold on to. We currently have one airline, one phone company and four banks. I actually received a letter today from TD/CanadaTrust that explained how they would officially be fucking me. If you had a student account with TD, as of March 1, you no longer do; under the new plan the fees are considerably larger, but don't worry, they're not changing your account number.

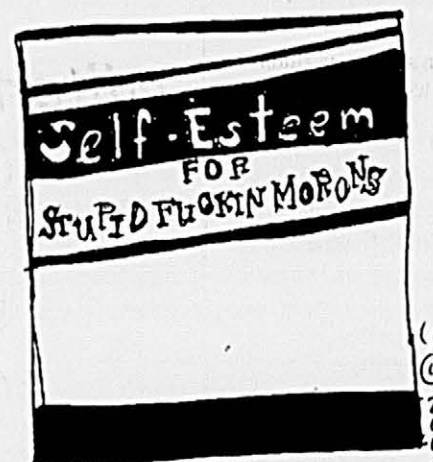
Yes, our governments, be it municipal, provincial, or federal, are grabbing the lifeboats wherever they can find them, tearing them out of the hands of children to stay afloat. The choice left to the majority of us is as follows: get in the giant life raft steered by a buffoon, or go swim with the sharks. I'd like to think I take my chances with the sharks, but at some point I think we all climb aboard the raft, clip on our respective cell phones and sing songs in praise of the system. But until then, I like to think we can tread water pretty good on our own; dancing, treating cops like security guards and using our pens to stab holes in their inflatable rafts...or their chests.

The Art Dummy has appeared every week in The Daily since the autumn of 1999.

LIFE...(IT FELT SPONGY) by Claire Blanchet



...BUT BERNARD HAD ALWAYS CONSIDERED HIMSELF MORE OF A LEG MAN.



ONLY YEARS LATER DID TEDDY IDENTIFY THIS GIFT FROM HER AS AN "OMEN OF HARD TIMES TO COME".

comics@mcgilldaily.com

...continued from previous page

Undergraduate Society. As an outside observer of this situation, I am also appalled that such bigotry managed to get published in a student funded paper, and furthermore, has seemingly gone unpunished despite the absence of any forms of repent on behalf of the paper's editors. Universities are supposed to be institutions that foster higher learning, not the sorry sources of male chauvinism and institutionalized sexism and racism that seem to have been embodied in the recent publication of the Plumber's Faucet.

It is on these grounds that I wish to insight action not only from the rest of the undergraduate body of the Faculty of Engineering, but from all other students on campus as well as members of the academic staff. Such clear forms of discrimination should not be quietly swept under the rug in order to preserve McGill's reputation as an institute of academic excellence; rather, our lack of response as a community will only hurt our beloved institution's reputation. We must all stand in solidarity and call for the resignation of the editors of the

Faucet that were responsible for the atrocities published in the December edition of the Plumber's Faucet.

Scott Smith

U3 Environment

Member, QPIRG Board of Directors

MISHRA DESERVES SUPPORT

It has recently come to my attention that the president of the Engineering Undergraduates' Society, Anjali Mishra, is facing possible impeachment for sending a letter to The Daily which criticized certain misogynist and racist comments on the part of The Plumber's Faucet. In writing a personal letter, she is being attacked by the rest of the EUS executives, who evidently plan to present an impeachment motion at their next meeting Tuesday. I urge Engineering students to show their support for Mishra, who acted of her own accord in an intelligent and noble manner. If the

EUS executive body supports the bigoted comments made by the Faucet, then they should by all means impeach their president and allow the Faucet to continue printing slurs. I'm still a little unsure about how her letter constitutes an impeachable offense -- but then again, what do Engineering students know about proper governing bodies? What the Faucet printed was offensive; Anjali's letter was diplomatic, well-written, and highly appropriate.

Sam Fenison

UO Arts

REST ASSURED THAT NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, BATTERY SUPPLY WILL NOT BE THREATENED

This letter is in response to an article regarding Chapters at McGill's bookstore (Jan. 22).

Win-Leader is an independent distributor supplying calculators, batteries, blank tapes and other allied commodities to the McGill bookstore. Whatever the final scenario regarding the Bookstore is, i.e. Chapters/Future Shop or Independent, please be assured of our commitment in continuing our business relationship with the bookstore.

Douglas Fisher

VP Marketing

Win-Leader Corp.

LIBRARIES NOT SO GLOOMY

In a rather gloomy article on McGill's falling standards (Jan.29), Jonathan Bracewell was quoted as being upset that he was asked to leave the Nahum Gelber Law Library during the exam period because he was not a law student. While I cannot verify what happened in that instance, I should note that all McGill

libraries are open to all McGill users, even during exam period. It is true that, because law students have to use the library material when studying for exams, certain areas are set aside for their exclusive use.

However, there are other areas that any McGill student may use. If a guard asked Mr. Bracewell to leave the library, this was either an error or a misunderstanding. I should also note that, thanks to the efforts of the SSMU, there is a 24-hour study area in McLennan/Redpath during exams which represents an improvement in access over any period in the last three decades.

John Hobbins

Acting Law Librarian

Send us your letters and Hyde Parks at letters@mcgilldaily.com. Letters should be kept under 300 words, while Hyde Parks should be less than 500 words.

If Someone at McGill has Something to Say, They Say it in Daily Commentary. Turn The Page For Even More.

Faucet Debate Overheated



BY JENIFER PAULOUSKY

It seems that the December 2000 issue of *The Plumbers Faucet* has become a springboard for a deeper look at misogyny in Engineering. Well, being a woman in my third year of the Mechanical Engineering program, I felt it may be time to put my two cents in.

To begin with, it is true that women have a hard time in Engineering. In fact, you may be surprised to know that men do too. Our faculty, like any other faculty at McGill, is a very challenging one. Any professor or administrator I have ever dealt with has expected that every student in their program belongs there and will do their best, regardless of race, creed, and least of all gender. In other words, I have never had the unfortunate experience of having to deal with this disturbing sexism that Erica Weinstein and Peter Flegel speak of. You might think I've just been lucky, but I prefer to think that my case is

fairly common among females in Engineering. I don't deny that some people have had bad experiences here, as I'm sure there have been plenty of in other departments across campus.

However, it's closer to being a series of isolated incidents rather than the distasteful flavor of the entire program. As for the Faucet, I cannot make statements as an editor because we have collectively chosen not to speak on this issue for now. If readers cannot except our sincere apology for our mistakes, perhaps they can take comfort in knowing that three issues from now we will be gone, and a new staff can start with a clean slate.

I think what disturbs me the most in all of this is the stance of Anjali Mishra. I don't mind her criticism of *The Faucet* - on the contrary! Anyone, including Anjali, has the right to point out when something goes wrong. What is bothering me is her lack of support for the faculty she represents. The fact that she felt our apology belonged in *The Daily*, instead of being hidden in the folds of our own obscure paper [as she roughly phrased it] disgusted me. If *The Daily* needed to amend for something publicly, would they print it in *The Tribune*? This comment sounds even more idiotic when one gets to the end of her letter, where she says we have hundreds of readers. I'm sorry, but I think between the hundreds of readers and the less than flattering publicity we've caused ourselves

over the last month, obscure is not an appropriate adjective.

Most disturbing out of all this though is Ms. Weinstein's and Mr. Flegel's claims of misogyny running through the veins of the Engineering Undergraduate Society. No one, to the best of my knowledge, is trying to silence Anjali. Again, she has the right to say whatever she wants as a woman and a student - but not as President. She seems to forget that when she signs a letter as "president" she associates herself with the rest of the EUS, just as Erica Weinstein did by identifying herself as "Coordinator, McGill Women's Union". It is her responsibility to take into account the opinions of her fellow executives when speaking as president, and not to assume that they will be the same as her own. So if not everyone is thrilled with what she's been saying, I would think it's because they are justifiably upset at her misrepresentation of their views, not because the EUS is comprised of misogynists.

Thus, I write this letter as a woman dismayed at both the mistakes the Faucet has made, but also at the lack of communication between faculties. I'd like to see a day when criticisms can be made against specific people and events, without making broad sweeping assumptions about the character of an entire department.

Jenifer Paulousky is a U2 Mechanical Engineering

Slibel & Lander

Bedtime for Bonzo!

Your forum for all the latest campus scoops

The aspiring world rulers with McGill's **United Nations** club did their best to impersonate tyrannical dictators two weekends ago when hosting a model UN conference here in Montreal. It seems that the club's head-honchos had a personal beef with the **intrepid Daily reporter** sent to cover the opening ceremonies and barred him from entrance, even after checking with a news editor to verify that he was indeed the real thing. In the ensuing fracas, **tears** were shed, **profanities** uttered and **punches** nearly thrown. Slibel has learned that the person calling the shots on that fateful eve was none other than Thomas Park: an erstwhile official with the UN club, now attending McGill law school, who managed to orchestrate the election of a puppet government, stocked with pliable minions... While on the subject of megalomania and its **disastrous consequences**, Slibel is distressed to note a press release just received from CASA, the student lobby group to which SSMU pledges allegiance. According to the tenacious CASA reps who plead our case to government, "**Stockwell listens to students**" That is of course

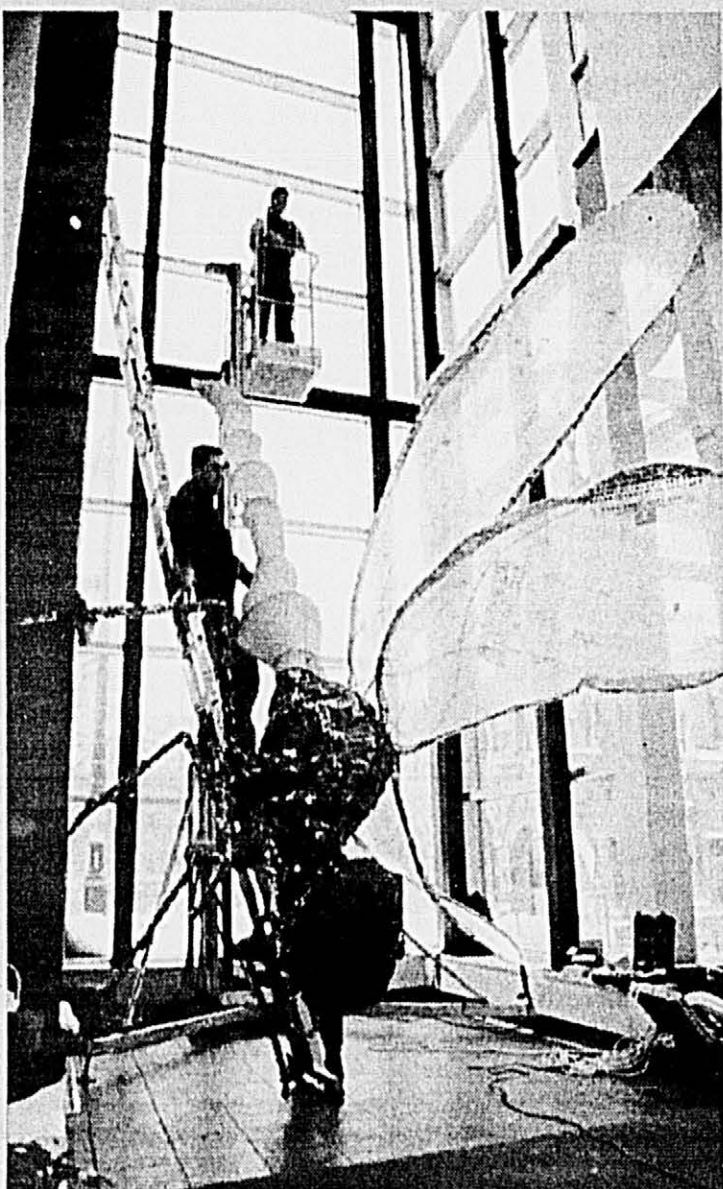
true, as long as you are a white Anglo-Saxon protestant who thinks that **pedophiles** are lurking behind every corner...Slibel has long wondered why some people don't write to *The Daily*. Are they scared? Bashful, perhaps? No sir. The actual reason, it turns out, is that the **Engineering Undergraduate Society council** has been ordering people not to write to this paper. In the spirit of mandating silly things, Slibel would like to order people to not block the escalator by standing on the right side of the step, to avoid wearing those loose turtlenecks and to revere former **NDP leader Ed Broadbent** like the god among men that he so obviously is.



ON TRACK: PGSS VP External Affairs Eve Pickles. The woman's name is Pickles and she runs PGSS with Scottish efficiency. Enough said.

ON CRACK: Matthew Hays. His Montreal Diary column in the *Globe* last week on Fish Piss and the Autodistroboto was sooooo Original.

CAMPUS EYE by Pierre-Alain Parfond



Artist Gayle Hermick oversees the installation of "The Dragonfly" in the Brown Building on Friday. The sculpture, which is made from the parts of 30 computers, is part of Hermick's *Insect Wrecks* series and was donated to McGill by alumnus Joy McLaren.



McGill University

THE DEPARTMENT OF JEWISH STUDIES

Call for Submissions:

BLACHER AND GLASROT FAMILIES MEMORIAL AWARD FOR HOLOCAUST RESEARCH

Established by Mr. and Mrs. Josef Glasrot, survivors of the Holocaust and residents of Montreal. Open to any McGill student, the award will be presented for excellence in research in Holocaust and related studies, and particularly on the history of the Ghettos in Warsaw and Kovno [Kaunas]. The award is administered by the Department of Jewish Studies in cooperation with the Jewish Community Foundation. Presentation of the Blacher and Glasrot Families Memorial Award will take place at the Closing Exercises of the Department of Jewish Studies, Thursday, June 7, 2001. The value of the Blacher and Glasrot Families Memorial Award is \$1000.

- The competition is open to undergraduate and graduate students at McGill University.
- Students must submit 2 typed copies of their essays.
- Essays can be based on primary or secondary materials.
- Essay submissions must reach the Department of Jewish Studies Office, 3438 McTavish Street, by April 30, 2001.

A Glamourous Story of Survival



*This is the Hour of Lead-
Remembered, if outlived,
As Freezing persons, recollect the Snow-
First-Chill-then Stupor-then the letting go-
-Emily Dickinson*

"But I'm not sick anymore!" was my immediate response when a counsellor first suggested I join a support group for those recovering from eating disorders. "Neither are most of these women," she replied. So I finally agreed, and there I was last Monday, walking up all those stairs to the office of McGill counseling services, remembering to breathe. Everyone was going to judge me, I thought. The receptionist, when I gave her my name, would think to herself: "that girl doesn't look like she has an eating disorder." Keep remembering to breathe.

The story of my descent into the netherworld of anorexia and bulimia is all too typical. Type A perfectionistic control freak with less than stellar self-esteem meets a society's unrealistic beauty standards, and the collision is brutal. It is a story that has been told over and over again, with varying degrees of understanding, by the mainstream media for quite some time now. As my Feminist Textuality prof related last week, "anorexia and bulimia are fashionable topics."

I remember reading about my illness in newspapers and magazines while I was still suffering, and based on the stories that were told there, I was essentially given models relating to how I could ruin my life or die. Yet there was hardly ever anything on recovery. Every once in a while there was a blurb at the end saying something to the effect that some-people-can-recover-with-treatment-but-not-really-everyone, but this was all. Recovery isn't nearly as newsworthy, as glamorous, as dying I presume.

I beg to differ. So if you're looking for a story about what hell looks like from the inside, I regret to say that I will not be telling it. Instead, I will be mapping my route out.

Before I start, I should clarify that, though I've had a generally healthy attitude towards food and my body for a while now, I am not recovered. Past tenses are fun no doubt. But much like life (as I've reluctantly had to learn), recovery is a process, not necessarily a goal or destina-

tion. What I can tell you however, is that I've come a very long way from where I've been, and have no reason to believe that I can't strive even further.

I spent the better part of anorexia in denial. It was only when I started throwing up, and consequently everyone around me assumed all had gone back to 'normal' since I had gained weight, it began to occur to me that something might be wrong. It becomes difficult to maintain that all is swell when you're sticking your fingers down your throat a few times a day. Besides this though, when my family and friends stopped bugging me to eat all the time, I started noticing my own behavior. I questioned what I was doing to my life and my body, and became afraid of what would eventually happen if I continued along the same path.

Though this was not enough to make me stop purging, it was a start. It was also the first time I encountered a nice little voice in my head, telling me: "get up!", "you don't belong here", "you're stronger than this." At first this voice is scarcely more audible than an echo.

Around that time, my high school English teacher gave me a copy of *The Beauty Myth* (the rest is history), in which Naomi Wolf writes: "If we are to free ourselves from the dead weight that has once again been made out of femaleness, it is not ballots or lobbyists or placards that women will need first; it is a new way to see." At the time, I found this passage particularly empowering, as I drew from it the knowledge that I was potentially in control of how I viewed my body and myself.

Though Wolf's book transformed me into a feminist rather quickly, it was by no means a miracle cure. The reason for this is relatively simple: *The Beauty Myth* taught me that "a new way to see" was what I craved, but could not possibly provide it for me. Certain influences may have been strong, but "seeing" was not something anyone or anything else could have done for me. I resented this.

When friends or counsellors told me I deserved to eat, I would say "Prove it." But of course, no one else was going to prove it. They can't make you eat, they can't get you better, and they can't have you stop hating yourself.

Learning to see again is no simple matter. It involved time, nurturing, and a belief that I was worth the effort. I knew I needed to give myself a break for once. When I stopped living my life in order to please everyone else, and finally asked myself what it was I needed, I found out that it wasn't always food (or lack of). I embraced more effective methods of coping with problems or anxieties; in short, I learned to deal. I also forced myself to see that everything in life is not a contest, nor is beauty something to have imposed on you by other people.

For people who suffer from eating disorders, certain feelings of emptiness or fullness seem very comforting, as they have become all that is familiar. In recovery, I learned that feeling good about myself and treating my body well can be just as comforting, if not just as much of a blanket, as

my eating disorder had been.

There is also something to be said for looking all the paradoxes square in the face, and seeing them for the bullshit that they are. That girl does not prove her strength to others by making her body weaker. Further, when she loses control over all aspects of her life in a die hard quest to control her body, this may be the time to loosen that control.

And all the while, the nice little voice, the one that started out as only an echo, has grown a lot stronger.

Of course, this experience isn't all positive. One way I would classify the collective recovery from the confusion of anorexia, the wrenching contradictions of bulimia and laxative abuse, the exhaustion of compulsive exercising, and the numbness of self-injury, is as a form of thawing. The warmth entailed by this metaphor is very comforting. However, as anyone who has ever suffered from frost bite knows, the process of getting feeling back can hurt like hell.

The pain, anxiety and insecurity I avoided by trashing my body, did come back to haunt me. Feelings, as much as you try to deny them, do not go away.

Consequently, bodies don't either. All that is really left in the end, is acceptance. One cannot fall in love with a former arch enemy overnight, granted, but this is by no means impossible. It would be nice to leave that be as my happy ending (and possibly even stay within my word limit this week); but the truth is that, even then, it's never really over.

In her autobiography entitled *Wasted: A Memoir of Anorexia and Bulimia*, Marya Hornbacher writes of her recovery process: "You eat your god-damn Cheerios and bicker with that bitch in your head who keeps telling you you're fat and weak: 'Shut up, you say, I'm busy, leave me alone.'" There is a lot of bickering; this is an understatement. My eating disorder controlled my thoughts for a very long time, and nothing gives up power easily. But nothing likes to be ignored either, and everytime I tell a nasty voice to "shut up," the disease gets weaker, and I, in turn, become more powerful.

Hornbacher continues that: "When she leaves you alone, there's a silence and a solitude that will take some getting used to. You will miss her. Sometimes, there is an incredible loss."

So after all that, do I miss it? Yes. I miss it a lot. I miss the attention. I miss the sense of accomplishment that came with starving. I miss the superhuman power to 'turn back time' I felt when purging. I miss not having anything to think about but food. "The letting go," as I've experienced it, is a hell of a lot less poetic than it seems. But I continue to strive for it anyway, because I believe there is something better than the backward reality I fell in with. I deserve something better.

If everything in life were as 'poetic' as the implied simplicity in a single gesture act of 'letting go,' I imagine I would get very bored.

When Everyone is Above Average

Are you being served by the cultural bias argument?



BY BROCK JONES

Perhaps the most disturbing trend in our educational system is the steady rot of academic standards. It has become a cliché in recent years to note the uselessness of a university B.A., once a proud achievement, from even the best universities in Ontario. What is often overlooked, however, are the reasons behind this decline. The Pieters legal case provides a telling example.

Currently, the Ontario Human Rights Commission is investigating allegations that the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) is "culturally biased." Selwyn Pieters, a student at Osgoode Law School, launched the complaint in 1998 after being denied entrance to the U of T Law School, among other schools, in part due to his poor LSAT score.

U of T sets some of the highest LSAT requirements for law school admittance in North America. It prides itself on the academic quality of its students. Naturally, the possibility that perhaps hemight lack the intellectual acumen for the U of T Law School never occurred to Pieters. No, instead the test must surely be "culturally biased." In other words, Pieters' failure must be someone else's fault. Sadly, Pieters' attitude towards academic failure should not be surprising. It is the direct result of promoting a culture of entitlement where university education is deemed a "right" to be bestowed upon anyone who wants it, as opposed to a privilege earned through hard work and academic achievement.

At its present size, the Canadian style of mass higher education probably ought to be judged a mistake - and one based on a giant lie. Why do people go to university? In theory, it is to develop a capacity for critical thinking, enhance one's knowledge and appreciate our vast wealth of cultural treasures. In reality, however, very few students are here for any of these reasons. A great number of students at university are only there to get a degree. They could care less about what they are studying. They hold no passion for history, art, phi-

losophy, or law. They are here, quite frankly, because everyone "belongs" at university these days. This is the great egalitarian myth of our time: that university is a right, not a privilege. Thus, standards have had to fall to accommodate the larger number of students currently enrolled.

I wonder if the mediocrities who have flooded into university in the past two decades are really being served better by the higher education they receive. Yes, they get the requisite credential which allows them to be interviewed. But when a B.A. has been downgraded to the point where it is laughed at, I question if we have truly helped anyone. In truth, some people are more talented than others, some more interesting, and some more intelligent. If all the world's a stage, as Shakespeare noted, not everyone plays an equal part. Some people are born to be stars. Others are born to sit in the audience and applaud their betters. Which brings me back to Mr. Pieters. It is little wonder that the U of T's law graduates are the most highly sought after in Canada. They must meet the toughest standards of academic achievement.

As such, it is to be expected that many people who apply there will not be accepted. Lowering the standards would be a disservice to everyone, including those who fail to gain admittance. They are better suited elsewhere. At times with regards to education policy, we are as silly as the people in Garrison Keillor's fictional heartland, where all children are deemed to be "above average." Rather than admit the limitations of those who are unqualified to be here, we delude them, and ourselves, into believing otherwise. In my mind, partial failure has always been better than delusory success. Let us help everyone acquire the best education they are suited to. But let us not ruin the quality of yet another institution to appease someone's tragic insecurities.

Ultimately, it is that yearning to believe that anyone can be brought up to university level that has brought universities down to everyone's level. In response to the OHRC investigation, the U of T Law School has stated that they stand by the LSAT.

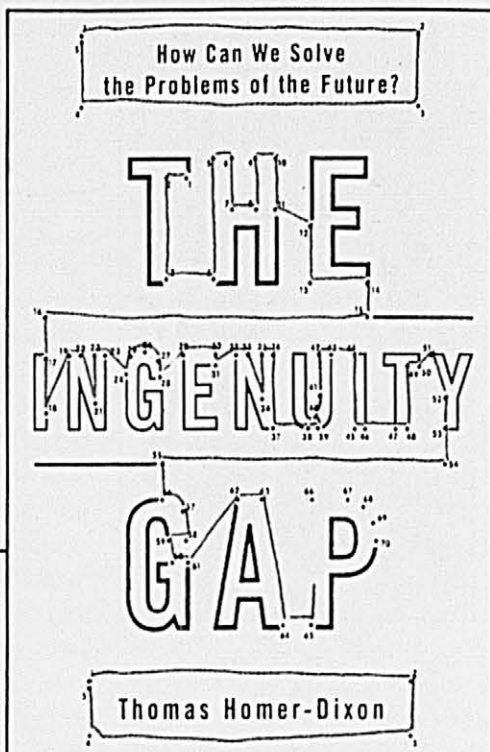
They have made the right decision.

Brock Jones is currently finishing his Master's degree at the University of Toronto, and is quite proud of being accepted to U of T's law school for 2001. This Hyde Park originally appeared in The Varsity, the student newspaper of The University of Toronto.

**Submit your Hyde Parks and let-
ters to letters@mcgilldaily.com
and you too can feel special.**

Mind the Gap

We may be creating problems so complex we can't solve them, says Canadian political scientist Thomas Homer-Dixon, author of *The Ingenuity Gap*



BY PAUL REEVE
The McGill Daily

Julian Simon, the late, infamous American economist, was best known for insisting that the human race could grow, becoming ever more prosperous and more numerous, forever. His rationale for this surprising idea was (not at all deceptively) simple: Keep the population growing, and you'll increase the amount of cleverness on Earth. All those clever people will come up with clever technological ways to overcome any and all resource limits, given the operations of a free market.

In fact, he thought, that's hardly even necessary, because "[w]e have in our hands now the technology to feed, clothe and supply energy to an ever-growing population for the next 7 million years." (At a 1% growth rate per year, the human population would increase over that time to be vastly larger than the number of atoms in the universe.)

Okay, so Julian Simon was a crackpot. So what?

Enter Thomas Homer-Dixon, head of the Peace and Conflict Studies program at the University of Toronto, and author of the recent book *The Ingenuity Gap*. He tells us that Simon's boundless faith in the power of the human mind to overcome any and all obstacles - even those thrown up by its own recklessness - is surprisingly common, especially among contemporary economic

and political elites.

"There's a kind of triumphalism in the States right now," he said. "If you take a look at the cover story in the Atlantic Monthly last

"My point is that we're becoming so self-absorbed, and so impressed with ourselves, so turned inwards, that we're losing a sense of awe, and a sense of our real place in the cosmos."

month, it's an argument about the ability of the New Economy to get around resource limits, and it looks at the oil industry in particular - in fact the only case that the guy examines is the oil industry - and he draws on that, he extrapolates from that, and comes to an amazing conclusion, that our ingenuity can exceed all resource limits on the planet."

But, he says, a growing mountain of evidence points to the conclusion that this faith is unfounded. And the consequences of this failure to recognize our own limitations could be drastic.

FIGHTING FRACTALS WITH FRACTALS

"Let's start from the beginning, let's start at ground zero, the engine of our ingenuity, the locus of it," he says. Homer-Dixon is talking about the human brain, whose history he delves into in a chapter of *The Ingenuity Gap*.

"Our faith in the human brain is part of that general faith in our ability to overcome any limits that we face. And part of that story is the optimism that the human brain is not even remotely close to its limits on capacity. I'm suggesting that we may be starting to reach those limits."

"I'm really struck by the work of Rick Potts, who's at the Smithsonian Institute. He suggests that the reason that we're such good generalists is because we had to adapt - when our brains expanded between ten thousand and three hundred thousand years ago. That was a period of very dramatic climate change in Africa. A sharp non-linear event, perhaps caused by flipped ocean currents in the Atlantic or something like that. Human beings had to develop the ability to change their behaviour quite dramatically as their environment changed. An ability to be a good generalized problem-solver had an evolutionary advantage."

This talk of non-linearities comes up again and again, both in our conversation and in the book. Here he's drawing on research from a field called, appropriately

enough, complexity theory. Scientists in this area try to draw insights from a variety of domains - from fluid dynamics to macroeconomics - together to gain insight into the functioning of complex systems. One of the basic sorts of problems in understanding such systems, it seems, is that their behaviour often varies unpredictably widely with only small changes in some variable.

It's a kind of unpredictability that, if

"When the Hague conference broke down, people should have been out in the streets. You get a cover story in Time magazine and people say 'Gee, that's awful,' and they go back to driving their SUVs."

we ignore it, may leave us with a false sense of security about how well we can anticipate what our most pressing problems will be in five, ten, or a hundred years. That's the kind of difficulty Homer-

Dixon is talking about - a kind that may leave us and our creative, problem-solving intelligence behind.

"So the question arises: here we are now potentially creating these non-linearities for ourselves, we now have the capacity to modify the planetary ecosystem in a major way, and are we now creating a world that's too complex even for - and where the non-linearities are too extreme for - our own vaunted abilities? Part of why I wrote that chapter was because I wanted people to come away with some kind of quite deep appreciation of just how extraordinary the human brain is. But you don't stop there; you don't say, 'It's an amazing instrument therefore we can solve all our problems.' It's an amazing instrument, but it may have created problems for itself that are beyond its capacity to solve."

JACK IN, TUNE OUT

The concept of the "ingenuity gap" is simple enough. Homer-Dixon takes "ingenuity" as the ability to come to grips with increasingly complicated problems by generating ever-more-complicated solutions. The supply of this ability, he says, is subject to a variety of limitations, including the cognitive ones. At the moment, a variety of factors - including fallout from our earlier solutions to other problems - are making our problems more and more complicated

The gap arises when the increase in complicated problems outstrips our supply of ingenuity to solve them.

At this point I'm perplexed. If our problem is that we're better at creating problems through complexity than we are at coming up with the ingenuity to solve them, is more complexity always going to cure what ails us?

Not quite, but almost, he thinks. "It may turn out that in some cases the solutions are simpler solutions. But I think the general trend is toward a more complex world, with more complex institutions and more complex technologies, a more complex relationship with our environment. And that means that in general, when we have problems at various times because of our institutions, technologies or environments, we're going to need more complex solutions. It's just a generalization. There will be exceptions, but in general it seems that we're moving in that direction. I don't think that's necessarily a bad thing."

He also worries that the increasingly self-enclosed, technologically enhanced lifestyle of rich countries is cutting off the very signals that would start us worrying more viscerally about the pressing environmental problems that threaten us - and keeping us from recognizing the humbling facts about our place in the grand scheme.

"Somebody might ask the hard question, 'So we don't get a lot of exposure to weather, we don't know about the frogs and things, but how many really important things are there that your average citizen is not coming into contact with?'"

"My response to that question would be that in some ways that's not the point. My point is that we're becoming so self-absorbed, and so impressed with ourselves, so turned inwards, that we're losing a sense of awe, and a sense of our real place in the cosmos."

RUNNING, BLINDFOLDED, TOWARD A CLIFF

"I think that one of the problems we face right now is that we're locked into certain ways of looking at the world. There's a very bounded discourse out there right now, that's bounded by a sort of End of History myth, that Western science and technology and markets are going to solve all humankind's problems - we've basically figured out how to organize ourselves, and generate the wealth we need to produce utopia. I think we need to break out of that box. And part of breaking out of the box is just seeing our situation in a different way, as a race between complexity and our capacity to keep up with it. It's not really seen in those terms right now."

"Can we do it? It partly depends on how we see the world. I gave a talk last night, and I said it's a bit like we're walking around with blindfolds on, and there are a lot of cliff-edges out there. We don't know where they are, and we're just charging around, not recognizing that we actually have blindfolds on, thinking we can see as far as we want in every direction. When you realize you've got a blindfold on, I asked the question rhetorically, what do you do? And somebody said Stop. And I said, yeah, you stop, or you say, I feel pretty safe in this local area, and if I'm going to venture outside of it, I just put a foot out, and make sure the ground is there, and I test a little bit and go a little bit further, and you know,

I'm prudent."

Homer-Dixon's previous work was on a project about links between resource scarcity and violence in the Third World. He tells me the intimate connections between environmental problems and conflict uncovered by the project are a key to feeling out some of these cliff-edges, falling off precipitously into darkness.

"I'm convinced that we're going to see a lot more violence in the developing world that has environmental factors as one of the underlying causes. Simply because the environmental stresses in much of the developing world are getting worse and worse, and there are larger and larger populations there. This is not a prediction that requires rocket science. Based on some fairly straightforward cases, and what the linkages were, and what the underlying dynamic of degradation and scarcity - not just degradation but the growing population making resources more scarce. And those will often be non-linear in character. Pakistan is an example of a country that's being pretty severely affected. And it may be a major social breakdown. I mean, it's really a mess already. It may manifest itself in a war with India, or something like that, and people will look at the proximate causes, which are, say, a recent coup in Pakistan, or a dispute between two ethnic groups, or a desire to turn attention away

from internal stresses away to the conflict in India, and they won't be looking at some of the deeper causes such as the ecological stresses on society.

"But the ecological stress will manifest itself in sharp events. The Rwandan geno-

"I think there's some very interesting questions about whether the human brain is well adapted for the challenges that humans face right now."

cide is a good example which had significant ecological factors in the background.... These are cliff-edges that I'm talking about. Another one that may be coming down the pipe at us is the opening up of the Arctic in open water in the next couple of decades. I mean, this is mind-boggling. People should be out in the streets about this. You get a cover story in Time magazine and people say 'Gee, that's awful,' and they go back to driving their SUVs. When the Hague conference broke down, people should have been out in the streets."

ENVIRONMENT, SCARCITY, VIOLENCE

It strikes me as significant that, not too surprisingly, the burden of suffering in all the imminent problems Homer-Dixon draws my attention to falls mainly on the people of the developing world. Among a range of issues he looked at in his earlier work was the way in which the unequal distribution of a relatively scarce resource can lead to building social tension and strife.

He sees the same problem with the distribution of ingenuity - itself including knowledge of all the innovations of the past. So I ask him: how are these problems going to hit the people of rich countries like Canada, if at all?

"You know, that's why I wrote this book. Because as I did the work on environment and conflict in the developing world, I found that I was becoming increasingly focused... There's a tendency in the academic community to become increasingly focused on a narrower and narrower definition of your problem. And what was happening is that because people wanted case studies that tested a clear hypothesis, we couldn't look at the effect of climate change on the developing world, because there hadn't been any obvious climate change that we could track, and track its effects. The signal hadn't emerged from the noise. And we couldn't look at the effect of ozone depletion, because the effect of ozone

depletion and increasing radiation on the developing world is completely uncertain. We couldn't really look at fisheries, because fishing communities are hard to track for a variety of reasons. So we ended up looking at water scarcity, land scarcity, and forests. Really we ended up looking at water and land.

"So it became this very dry, narrowly defined rigid academic exercise, examining how local villages are affected by something like fuel wood scarcity, how people respond, and what effect that has on propensity to violence and stuff like that. All useful work, but it was like the larger questions were being lost.

"I thought, this is a problem not just about villages in southern Africa, as important as they might be, this is a problem about humanity as a whole. There are a larger set of issues here. When I started working on the adaptation problem, how these developing countries, or even these villages adapt to these environmental stresses, I realized the model I was developing had something to say more generally, not just about poor countries, but about rich countries too. And so part of what I'm doing in this book is saying, look, we're all in this boat together. Let's not fool ourselves that this is just about problems of development.

"The developing countries have a different set of problems. They're horrific, and very difficult to solve, given the resources that they have. They have their own ingenuity gaps. But we've got another set of problems that are partly generated because of all the ingenuity we have. You don't have info-glut problems in Patna, in India, but we sure do here. And they produce various kinds of dysfunctions."

DON'T WORRY, BE HAPPY?

I think back to the economic optimists, who certainly aren't worrying about info-glut, or our lost awareness of the cosmos, and who probably see the environmental problems of the Third World as unimportant bumps on a road that can only get smoother with time. What's it going to take to get this global squad of powerful Bobby-McFerrins-about-the-future to worry? Nothing short, Homer-Dixon tells me, of "[s]ome major systems failures. Which can't be explained away as caused by unique or local, idiosyncratic circumstances. I think part of weakening those alternative explanations is showing that there are a whole series of phenomena that are occurring which have common characteristics. And one of the common characteristics is that they're exceeding our abilities.

"One thing I'm playing around with right now is bringing together diverse phenomena, like the energy crisis in California, this brouhaha that's developed around deregulation, the crisis with air traffic control and airline deregulation in the States, and our seeming inability to do anything constructive about global warming, and show that there are actually parallels in each of these situations. And that we seem to be running into - maybe not insurmountable problems, but certainly a rapid increase in difficulty in creating the institutional solutions to the problems we face. You have different ways of representing stories and events that are occurring. You can suggest that the events are local, and idiosyncratic, or you can suggest that these events are part of a larger pattern. And part of what I'm trying to do in this book is say look, there may be a larger pattern here."



FUN FACT ABOUT OUR FOUNDER

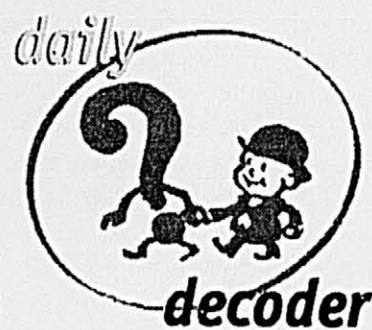
This week: a One Act Play inspired by the works of Orson Welles and Samuel Beckett. (Curtain opens to reveal a bloated, swarthy W.E. Gladstone Murray, founder of The McGill Daily, standing in his Xanadu, surrounded by many possessions. None of these possessions is capable of loving the rickety old media magnate. He is wearing an argyle vest)

W.E: Hey, there's my sled Rosebud. I wondered where I had put that old thing.

Godot (entering): Hey dude, what's going on? Let's go grab a burger.

W.E: Sounds good to me.

(They do not move. Not even a little bit.)



BY IAN MCKELLAR

This week, in response to popular demand and in an attempt to atone for a previous self-indulgent discussion of *Passions*, the Decoder takes the time to answer several real questions from real readers. Also, there is a discussion of Meat Hats.

Is there a giant lost and found at McGill?

No. We do not have the convenience of a large depository of people's forgotten stuff here at McGill. Why not? It's probably SSMU's fault. If you've lost something, you have to go and harass the poor porter of the building in which you lost said thing.

Where can I buy surplus industrial equipment?

One place to go for surplus industrial equipment is the Stanton Energy Industry Consultants, Inc., in New Stanton, Pennsylvania: "We Sell NEW & Recycled Surplus Industrial Equipment!" Closer to home, you could check out the Canadian PW & SSC Crown Assets Division; it sells Canadian government surplus equipment. They can be reached at (514) 283-6297. Happy trails!

What's with those cow tongues at Charcuterie Hebrique on St. Laurent? They're really grossing me out!

As David Letterman has been pointing out for years, cuts of meat are a source of great fascination to the common man. Some cuts of meat, however, remain unexplained. Foremost among them is the cow tongue (followed closely by the hoof). The Charcuterie Hebrique often has cow tongues on display; they are quite large, much larger than you'd imagine a tongue to be. Since there are usually several on display, one may wonder if they are ever sold, and if so, to whom. Although I am afraid to ask the store's meatmen about the uses of tongue, I have uncovered a recipe for cow tongue, part of which is excerpted here:

"Tongue Taco"

The following is a traditional meal and uses cow tongue as the meat (carne). Scrub tongue thoroughly. No soap, use salt as abrasive to remove slimey, congealed slobber. Rinse. (discretionary) In an eight quart kettle; add tongue, onion, coarsely chopped garlic, two large cloves, smashed with flat of knife. Cover with water and bring to boil. Cover and simmer for two hours. Refrigerate overnight ... Mix well and add to simmering meat. Stir. Will thicken into a sauce, coating the meat and camouflaging some of the gamey flavour of tongue.

The full recipe can be found at <http://www.ecis.com/~alizard/tonguetaco.html>. For a description of "Hepatitis-A and Raw Cow Tongue," visit <http://pusanweb.com/Exit/Mar97/hepatitis.htm>. This is really quite interesting.

What ever happened to Liberace?

"Before Michael Jackson or Elton John wowed us with their fashion sense, Liberace laid down the sequined cape for future generations of flamboyant tunesmiths to sashay across." Liberace died in 1987. His legacy lives on. Some lousy actor, I think maybe John Stamos of *Full House* and

Rebecca Romijn-Stamos fame, lives in the crazy Beverly Hills house once owned by Liberace. Talk show host Craig Kilborn regularly holds up Liberace's autobiography during his show. According to one Liberace fanatic, "in the spring of 1984 Liberace's premier engagement at New York's famed Radio City Music Hall broke all sales and attendance records of the 51-year history of the Art Deco palace. More than 80,000 people were on hand for what Liberace described as 'the fulfillment of a dream and the culmination of my 40 years in show business.' Commenting on the engagement, The Wall Street Journal said: 'Liberace occupies his own special rhinestone-studded niche in the American dream.'"

Why should I care about Zorak's Page of Raisin' Heck?

Zorak's Page of Raisin' Heck is very important. It is more important than most things on the InterNet. It is important that everyone visit this page right now: <http://www.cartoonnetwork.com/spaceghost/cod/zorak/index.html>

Meat Hats!

Yes, meat hats do seem to have everyone in a tizzy these days. First the Montreal Mirror makes a splash with their meat hat coverage, and now it appears that the National Post will include a piece on the meat hat phenomenon as part of its continuing series on haberdashery. Go straight to the source yourself - visit <http://www.hatsofmeat.com> or <http://www.designboom.com/trash/bse.html> to join in.

Do you have questions for The Daily Decoder? They can be about anything, and Ian McKellar will do his darndest to answer them. Send them along to decoder@mcgilldaily.com

TREE HUGGER

BY DEREK BOWMAN, *The Manitoban*

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9
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34				35				36		
37				38				39		
40				41				42		

ACROSS

- 1 Bye-byes
- 4 Half of a cheerleader's tool
- 7 Sports teams heads, for short
- 10 Sort of like
- 11 U.S. car org.
- 12 Splinter in "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" e.g.
- 13 Univ. student's concern
- 14 Sail on the snow
- 15 _____ tree, in trouble
- 16 Large California tree
- 18 Cotton gin inventor Whitney
- 19 "Orinoco Flow" singer
- 20 Lied about languidly
- 22 "Star Trek" genre
- 24 Chess master Anatoly
- 27 Wanes, like the tide
- 31 Gorilla or orangutan
- 32 Large California tree
- 34 Whirlpool
- 35 Sea, at Sorbonne
- 36 1st, 2nd or 3rd, e.g.: Abbr.
- 37 Antiquity
- 38 Male counterparts of elles
- 39 1150 on a slab
- 40 _____ amis (my friends)
- 41 Canadian TV sta. showing Shania
- 42 Bashful

DOWN

- 1 Striped cat, in St. Malo
- 2 Colorado resort area
- 3 Like trees, or Eminem's character
- 4 El _____, Texas
- 5 Three trees
- 6 _____ honour, bride's friend
- 7 "Oliver" offering
- 8 Type of syrup
- 9 Down-to-earth
- 17 Picnic pest
- 21 In _____ of, instead (of)
- 23 Of stellar proportions
- 24 Countdown king Casey
- 25 Granny Smith, red or green
- 26 Enjoys a book
- 28 Loud, hollow sounds
- 29 "American Beauty" actress Thora
- 30 In a morose way
- 33 P-U link

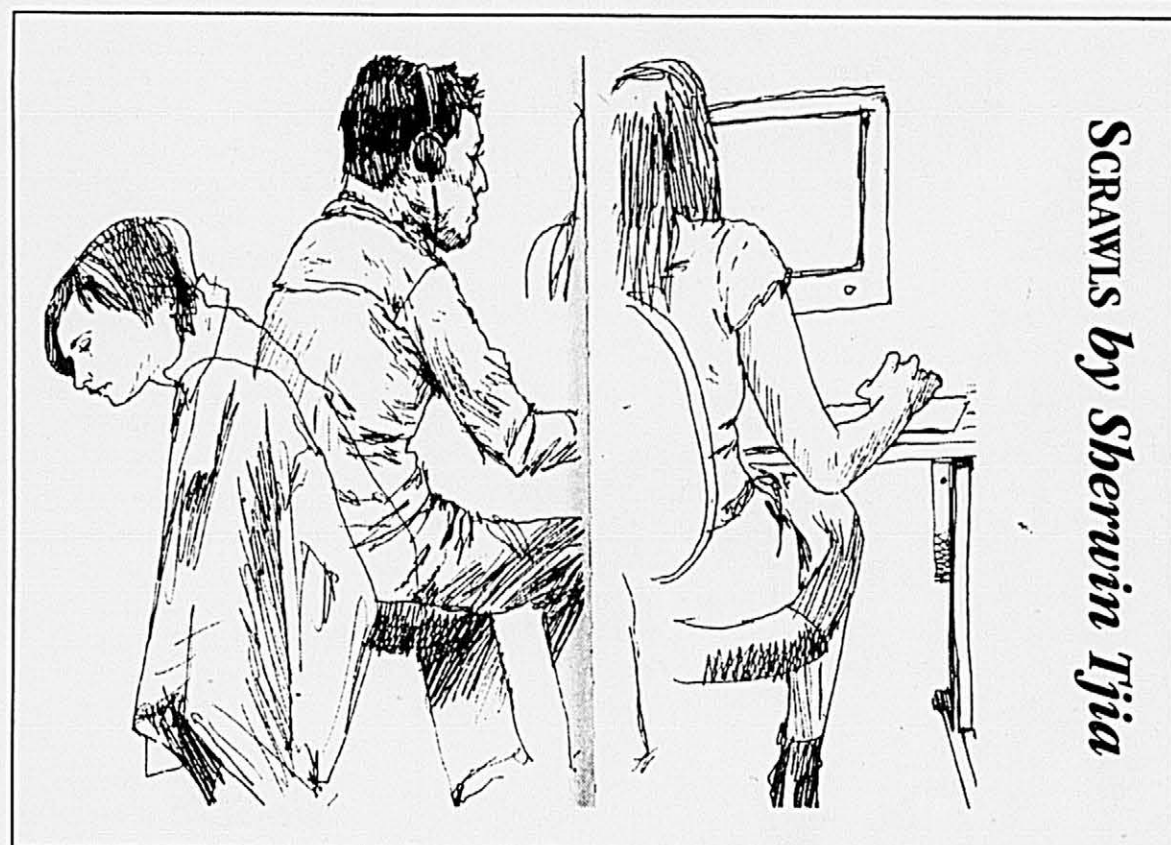
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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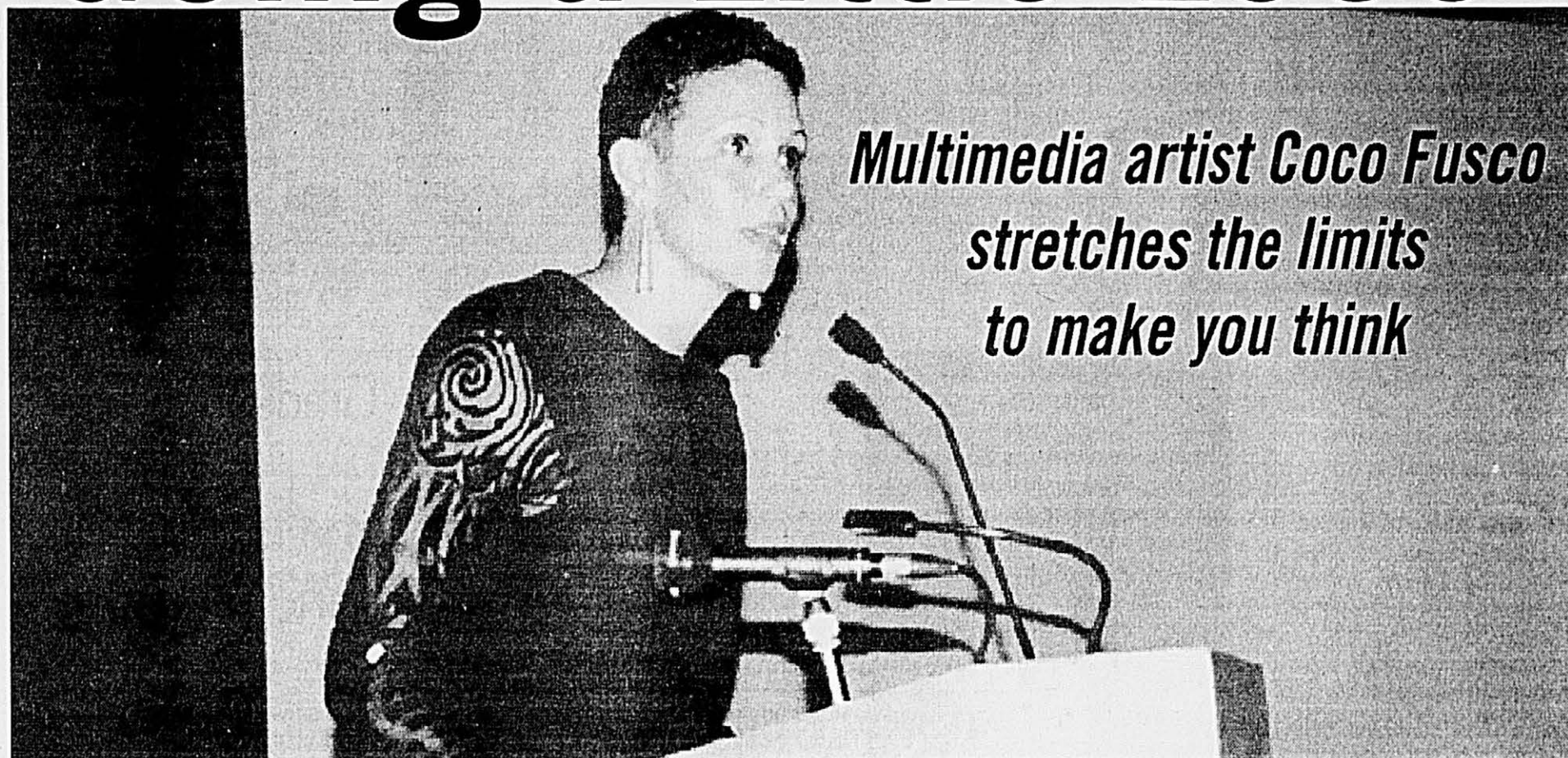
THE MCGILL DAILY

is dropping writs like they're going out of style!

The Daily will be holding an election for the position of Culture Editor on Wednesday, February 7th at 5:30 in Chancellor Day Hall Room 620. To run, you must be a McGill student and Daily staff. Staff is anyone who has contributed 6 stories, photos or production nights, or 12 hours of other newspaper-related duties, or any combination thereof. Please consult your doctor before taking this position.



Going a Little Loco



Lucas Rieppel

Multimedia artist Coco Fusco stretches the limits to make you think

Coco Fusco divines meaning from performance art, the horrors of life and the ironies of our world

BY LUCAS RIEPPOLD
The McGill Daily

How does one write a lead for an article on an artist who challenges boundaries and society's preconceived notions? Surely it would be in bad taste to simply relate that Coco Fusco gave a talk at the Musée Des Beaux-Arts' Maxwell Cummings Auditorium this past Thursday.

If the artist's intent was really to encourage people to be critical of a society that yields a great deal of control over the nature of its cultural expression an article about the subject should not be written in a style that exemplifies that very system. I shall therefore proceed in breaking one of the main journalistic conventions and simply start at the beginning.

The mood was informal and relaxed as the crowd entered the auditorium. Fusco sat casually on the stage, speaking with people who came up to her while exuding a general air of accessibility. The lights were turned down and Miles Davis' *Kind of Blue* was softly playing in the background. Friendly and inviting, she greeted acquaintances with a hug and a smile. She genuinely seemed to be enjoying the atmosphere. "When I was in high school people used to say that I smile too much... [and ask] what's wrong with me; I asked them what was wrong with them," she

would tell the audience.

Coco Fusco is a New York based interdisciplinary artist who concentrates mostly on performance art and writing. Using these media outlets to explore the traditional boundaries between ethnicity and art, she has been featured in the

"Everybody is ironic now...maybe it's time to be serious."

prestigious Whitney Biennial, the Sidney Biennial, the Johannesburg Biennial, as well as having written the book *English is Broken Here*, among other artistic and scholarly works. Currently an Assistant Professor at Temple University's Tyler School of Art, her work focuses largely on women and Latin America.

In writing this, I feel compelled to point out that she should not be confined to being referred to as a feminist or minority artist. These are exactly the limits that her art is challenging. According to Fusco our society has created a system of discourse

wherein critical texts instantly marginalize the effort and achievement of artists dealing with these issues. Why is it, for instance, that the term feminism has come to signify a movement that intrinsically cannot be of interest or importance to anyone not directly affected by the problems it is trying to deal with?

Rather than going through her well-rehearsed speech and slide show, Fusco gave the audience a choice, which they enthusiastically accepted, of reading her recently finished play *The Incredible Disappearing Woman*. The play is based on a real occurrence, but the main characters and plot are of her own creation. "The material was very disturbing... it was a very painful gestation process, [and] it took me forever to get it out of me," she said of the play.

The play was inspired by a real piece of performance art where a man heard of an artist in Vienna being castrated for art's sake, and deciding that instead of just having the surgery too, he would deposit his last semen in a dead woman. After claiming to have gone to Tijuana Mexico and renting a dead woman's body into which he ejaculated, he put on a show in a US gallery where he played an audio recording of himself having sex with her body and explained the process and intent of his piece. Fusco decided that rather than focus on the artist who had put on this grotesque

performance, she was more interested in the woman who's body he claimed to have rented and raped.

Asking herself what was this dead woman's story that led to her unidentified body being put in a Mexican morgue, Fusco discovered that it would be terribly

"Everybody has the ingenuity to make something out of a crappy situation."

difficult to have a dead character relate a narrative to an audience. She decided that it would be much more interesting to examine how different women could have come into the same situation. But rather than actually dying, they would only reach a state of near-death or pretend to be dead. This format allowed Fusco to play on a number of social and political metaphors with the three women that she chose as her protagonists.

The play is set in a Contemporary Art Museum in Los Angeles, the three women are custodial workers in charge of the

exhibit containing a diorama of the piece with the dead woman. They alternate impersonating her and each one reveals a story that connects her emotionally to this woman's situation. It is a setting that also serves to comment on the role of ethnicity and gender in our world. The idea of death as a tool for release and protection is examined.

An expressionistic, macabre quality forces the audience to question the implications of the story. Forcing people to question their own sense of security and ethics, the audience almost cannot help but question what death signifies in society.

Marking a departure from her established use of satire and humor, *The Incredible Disappearing Woman* is an intense and deeply disturbing look at the ethics and values of contemporary culture, particularly those in Latin America. Commenting on the character of her earlier work, Fusco explains that she finds irony and satire an extremely effective tool to make people pose fundamental questions about their own situation and perhaps lead them to have a more critical look at their lives and culture. "It was a challenge for me, coming from a high theory background to be funny... [now] I wanted to see if I could hold people's attention without being funny," she said. As for the function of irony in art, "everybody is ironic now... maybe it's time to be serious."

ALSO IN DAILY CULTURE: DJ Scissorkicks, Brian Trehearne and J. Mascis



**Cult
Leader**

McGill prof waxes poetic

Name: Brian Trehearne

Birthplace: Vancouver

Occupation: McGill English professor, and teacher of McGill's one and only creative writing class

Favourite Poets: John Donne, Charles Baudelaire, W.B. Yeats, Dylan Thomas

Mise-en-scene: In 1995, Professor Trehearne returned from sabbatical with a growing interest in creative writing, especially poetry, and realized that nothing in that way was available at McGill. He began leading an extracurricular workshop, in January of '96, in response to a general interest among students for such an outlet in their own writing, and in order to revitalize the tradition of writing that has been so evident in both students and faculty members in former times. He expected about 15 people to show; there were 53. Students started petitions for a bona fide class in creative writing, and with the help of Gary Wihl, the department head, the class was introduced in the fall of 1997. "It was a pretty big thing he did," says Trehearne of Wihl. "There just wasn't a lot of money; he really went out on a limb for it."

As for the scene in Montreal, Trehearne admits he doesn't really follow the spoken word set. "The poetry I've pursued has always been in my private life. I made my own poetry very much in isolation, and I would get some energy from students of mine who are writing poetry. He said that Louis Dudek, former McGill professor and his own teacher, said "All energy is good when it comes to poetry." Still, he says "I just believe that you shouldn't impose yourself on the public until you've earned your stripes."

Canadian idiom: So, is there a uniquely Canadian idiom? "I think there has been a lot of ink spilled over this idea that there is something all writers share, which is distinctly Canadian. . . . and not like Britain or the United States. They often mention a fairly spare and minimal and laconic style or diction. This particularity tends to applaud one kind of poet, excluding the more fanciful verse, for example. I have been called too British in my own poetry, whatever that means. . . . I don't really believe that there is something that can be called a Canadian idiom. It's too limiting. It's like, once we know this, we'll know the poets who 'speak our language'. There's a flaw in the question. Irving Layton, speaking of Canadian poetry, said, 'Whatever else, poetry is freedom,' and I feel that the search for this or that in Canadian poetry, is an attempt to limit their freedom."

— Emily Johnson



The Fridge Page

A guide to avoiding stale nights



THEATRE AND CINEMA:

The Crackwalker. Judith Thompson's wildly controversial play is poised to shock Montreal again. Directed by Mindy Parfit. Geordie Theatre, 4001 Berri. Running from Feb. 1-3, 7-10 at 8 p.m., and at 2 p.m. on the 4th and the 11th. 7\$ for students and seniors, 10\$ for adults.

Body and Soul. Necrophelia, virtual reality and live music. Written by John Mighton and directed by Taliesin McEnaney. Players Theatre, Shatner Building, 3rd floor, 3480 McTavish. Running from Jan. 31 to Feb. 10. 8 p.m. 5\$ for students, 8\$ adults.

The Steaks. Stakes are high for the 'Final' showing of this made-by-McGill-Movie. Frank Dawson Adams Auditorium. Feb. 7, 7 p.m., call 987-6035, or email thesteaks@hotmail.com for tix.

CONCERTS AND READINGS:

Sloth is Love. Casa del Popolo 4873 Saint Laurent. February 8-9.

Think you're funny? Check out "Vaganza." Feb. 9 at 2 p.m. For a paltry 2\$/students, 4\$ non-students you can flaunt your funnies til they yank you off the stage. Shatner Building, 3480 McTavish St. A 24 hr improvisational comedy show put on by members of McGill Improv in support of the International Festival for Humanity (IFH) 2001, a campus-wide event focused on promoting social awareness about local and global issues. All proceeds go to charity.

Gypsies! Feb 9 at 8 PM. McCord Museum. Directed by Peter Schubert, with pianist Michael McMahon and members of the Bokréta Hungarian Folk Ensemble. A concert featuring songs by Brahms, Schumann, and Dvorak, set to Hungarian folk dance. The concert will be followed by a Hungarian folk dancing lesson put on by the dancers. 16\$ for students and seniors, 20\$ for adults.

Get thee to the Yellow Door Poetry and Prose Reading! Feb. 15 at 8 p.m. 3625 Aylmer Street. Featured performers include Ian Ferrier, Alex Boutros and Kaarla Sundstrom, Catherine Kidd, Corey Frost. 5\$ at the door.

If mid-week doldrums have you singing the blues, then the Café Campus Blues Series may be the perfect antidote. Featured this week are Sue Foley and Steve Hill. Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m. Café Campus, 57 Prince Arthur East. 6\$ at the door.

Got an event? Want people to read about it over soggy Cheerios? Send us the information and have it appear on the Fridge. culture@mcgilldaily.com

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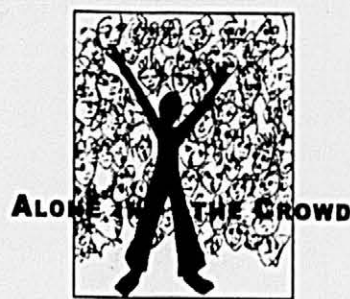
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'Corporations are Killing Language'

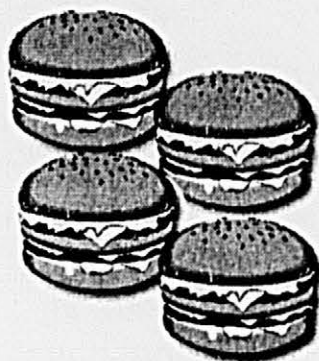
Soapbox Commentaries on the Cultural Evolution



BY JONATHAN MONTPETIT
The McGill Daily

John Antioco is the Chairman and CEO of Blockbuster International Associates. In a memo recently addressed to all employees he writes that "in 2001 we need to strengthen the relationship with our customers so that we 'own' them."

Maybe it's just me, but I find this confederate approach to customer relations rather unsettling. The memo goes on to describe how this can be brought about through higher efficiency and increased productivity. However, it's not the ambitious ideals of the message which disturb me, it is the language. More and more corporate bad boys manipulate words just to get what they want. The result is a lan-



guage that is being rendered useless.

Incidents in which corporations consciously lie to their clients occur so often that it's hardly worth mentioning. Is it a problem when McDonald's states that 'everyone' loves the Big Mac? Most people would not be inclined to think so. However they might have something to say if the CBC were to report that 'everyone' voted for George Bush?

For a corporation, truth is dispensable when it interferes with profit. But while the distortion of language may increase the earnings of a company, it leaves us consumers speechless. We rely on language to access information. When the information we are given is false, language loses its value.

This is not to say that the average person never lies, or that when he does he's putting another knife in the back of the English language. Individuals lie in reaction to a situation and whatever the consequences, they are only felt by a limited number of people. When I tell one of my ugly friends that he has a chance at pick-

ing up a woman of immaculate beauty I am not jeopardizing my future ability to communicate with him. The difference is that I am not trying to sell something to my friend. A corporation has no such personal bond with the consumer. Anyone, excluding professional athletes, who says that Nike is their best friend has some deep-seated issues. The problem is that corporations want you to think there exists some kind of trusting relationship between you and their product. Companies speak to us through advertising, being all chummy-chummy, making jokes; but like the loser from the bar, they're never funny.

'Subway, the place where stale meat is the taste', has a commercial currently running whereby the viewer is asked to remember a certain character. This fellow, who I believe goes by the name of Jared, was formerly quite rotund and has now lost a great deal of weight

"Anyone, excluding professional athletes, who says that Nike is their best friend has some deep-seated issues."

thanks exclusively to Subway's new low-fat sandwiches. Needless to say, I have never met this man and I would be very intrigued to talk to anyone who has. Of course no one remembers the ol' fat guy, he doesn't exist, never did and never will. So why is Subway wasting words insisting that this fat guy and I go way back? Never for a second would I catch myself believing anything that has been said, making its uttering completely irrelevant. I am a great deal less skeptical when Dylan Thomas claims that he must "enter again the round zion of the water bead."

At face value Thomas' line makes a great deal less sense than say the phrase "just do it." This demonstrates the strongest poison that corporations and their advertising place in our lexicon. We are more willing to identify with Nike's short phrase just because it appears to be easier to understand. It's easier to understand simply because it doesn't say anything. Besides buying a pair of \$130 shoes, what exactly am I supposed to be doing?

Thomas on the other hand is saying something. What that is, exactly, is beyond me, but it sounds pretty damn interesting. No matter how many times it may be repeated, (Nike CEO) Phil Knight's slogan will always tell me the same thing, 'buy the swoosh.' The language of literature is rich so that conse-

quent readings can offer new meanings to the same words. Compared to the imperatives of advertising, literature opens a world of possibility. If the pen is indeed mightier than the sword, then the writers of the world will be our new champions of freedom. Besides what sounds more appealing, a 'zion of the water bead' or a hamburger?

Thoughts about art, pop music loathing, diatribes about graffiti, cultural epithets, poignant poetry publishables, lucid or rambling rants about the state of the arts today, experimental espository essays, or simply writings about the cultured planet on which we exist...alone in the crowd.



Recent Finding: J. Mascis Not Extinct

Former Dinosaur Jr. impresario serves up sturdy sounds

BY PAUL BERRY
Culture Reporter

It's always nice to know that there are some constants in life. In this crazed world we try to navigate through, day in and day out, I for one take solace in the things I can depend on. Forget about death and taxes, I'm talking about a J. Mascis guitar solo. Seeing the legendary guitarist plugged in and ready to go means one thing: brace yourself because the man plays loud.

Mascis returned to the Cabaret this past week with his new band, The Fog. It seems more like a moniker that Mascis decided to use to go with his most recent album, *More Light*. The Fog's touring version is made up of bass-man Mike Watt, a legend on musical par with Mascis, and drummer George Berz, rendering the 1997 breakup of Dinosaur Jr. essentially meaningless. For years Mascis was the creative force behind the band, playing the vast majority of instruments on the their records. It was this same solitary streak which had led Mascis to boot future Sebadoh front man Lou Barlow out of the band in the late 80s. So, for all intents and purposes, the band appearing at Cabaret was just the latest incarnation of what Mascis has been doing for the last decade and a half.

Mascis' long, wavy hair would also fit into that category of dependables. Shoulder-length as always, he has, however, begun to show his age as his once dark hair has taken on considerable amounts of gray. Appearances



Legacy measured by hair growth

aside, Mascis still plays with the ferocity of a young man. From the opening number, the classic "What Else Is New," the crowd was given an aural guarantee that there'd be no deviation from Mascis' timeworn formula on this night. What Mascis can do with his guitar is the stuff of lore. Song after song, with a craftsman's precision, the man would tear into another fierce lick, building up an imposingly high wall of sound. The icing on the cake was seeing Mike Watt by Mascis' side.

Most recently here in the fall with his band The Pliers, a visit from Watt is always cause for celebration. Decked out in his traditional cheap sneakers, blue jeans and flannel shirt, his appearance takes on the look of a uniform after you've seen him a couple of times. Watt should really be coming out on stage with a construction helmet and a lunch box because this man goes to

work. He thumps his bass with unadulterated passion, thriving off its percolating rhythm, spreading it to the crowd. His love for Francophone culture was evident with his cry of "Tabarnac! Sacrement!" as he took to the stage.

Together, Mascis and Watt made for a very special night. True pioneers of their craft, fans should be grateful that these men are still at it. Mascis' commercial status has certainly dimmed of late after a string of popular albums in the early 90s. Far short of a sellout crowd, the audience lacked passion at times, apparent in the weak demand for an encore. Still, a large contingent was swept up by the display on stage. There are only a few figures remaining from the 80s American indie/alternative/whatever-you-want-to-call-it scene that are brave enough to venture out on tour, it's good to see that Mascis is one of them.

Doing Shit For Kicks

Amid a funky vibe, DJ Scissorkicks lays things thick

BY OGE BOZYGIT
Culture Reporter

The big man with the jolly face can be seen across the smoke filled bar. With thick-ass sideburns leveling broadly at his cheeks, he looks like an agent in an Austin Powers movie or a thug in a Guy Ritchie flick. Rocking his head, he invites the crowd in, starting things off with a Lou Reed tune floating above the ever-existent beat. He is standing in front of a crowd that is barely confined to the space between the chairs and speakers some people take the liberty of calling a dance floor.

In its midst are meandering bankers in coats and ties, as well as a guy who looks exactly like Brandon Fraser as a druglord in *Bedazzled*, not to mention a Russian dude sporting a black collared shirt, unbuttoned, with a collection of necklaces resting proudly on his chest. All are submerged joyfully amongst beatheads and party-seekers reveling in the sounds of London's DJ Scissorkicks.

Looking up at the turntables, it's difficult to determine what is more entertaining: digging the beats or watching the big Brit bob his head with his fingers pointing up, air-drumming like a madman. Fast-paced ragga has looped around for a while and it becomes evident that Blizzarts speakers are ill-equipped to handle the collision of beats DJ Scissorkicks produces, especially his second song that seems to be laced with a soundtrack from a nerve-racking seventies court drama/street thriller.

A raver is visible in the middle of the floor, dancing to a non-existent trance hit. A chick in the back is moving her hips in a way that would cause



nothing negative about DJ Scissorkicks

some belly-dancing gypsies to blush. Things have gotten beyond funky. As Scissorkicks turns around to make a selection from his box, one of the resident djs sneaks up and fucks around with the turntables, by slipping in a scratch in there and dives back into the crowd before Scissorkicks snaps his head back to see who threw his beats off.

Without delay, the marker on the sound spectrum slips into kinky robotics. The Russian mack is now jumping up in joy, while the drug lord is conveniently mingling in with the crowd. The beats are aggressive, filled with quirky sound tweaks.

Suddenly, people stop dancing and begin to jive, as a naïve ultra-funked out track is put into play, with vocals that proclaim: "I don't smoke the REE-FAH!"

Even the raver begins to calm down. There is more commotion than before, however, as the seated get up for this cartoonish joy ride.

The finish is strong: Scissorkicks, going absolutely crazy, layers beats onto beats, and if anyone had zoned out in their dancing rapture, the last two tracks bring them back with a vengeance that's even more entrancing than their previous dreamlike state. As Scissorkicks makes a dignified exit, the Incredible Melting Man from Toronto steps in and holds his ground incredibly well with a smoothness that called for some serious praise.

As far as Scissorkicks spinning skills go, it's hard to tell. Since he's promoting, it follows that he wants to let the beats play out with minor manipulation. After all, spinning at

Blizzarts isn't exactly the place where a DJ feels the need to prove himself. On occasion, he let go of his build-ups too soon, in a sort of premature ejaculation. Although he can't be blamed, the crowd was over-worked to begin with and I'm sure it was a pleasant change to be able let go of the beats in that manner, something a London crowd would be less receptive to. Laid-back and casual, one would expect somebody receiving this much recognition to have a much more intense bearing. As a DJ, Scissorkicks did not bring out all his folds. Then again, if he was more engaged with the turntables, there would have been less of his badass head-thumping. What is apparent, though, is that DJ Scissorkicks has compiled a set of solid tracks.

Scissorkick's Picks

The Daily caught up with London's DJ Scissorkicks prior to his Thursday Night Blizzarts gig. Amid turntable chatter, DJ Scissorkicks sampled a few insights about Canadian scenesters, London snobbery and the musicians that keep his ears vibrating when he's not laying down his own beautiful beats.

"The novelty (of Canada) hasn't worn off a bit. London people can be a bit snobbish, but people here really get into it. I recommend the Plump DJs from London. They're really good this year, doing lots of remixes, they're the hottest things," Scissorkicks opined.

For more information check out www.plump.com



Culture: Is it bred in the bone?
Find out on
Wednesday,
Shatner Cafeteria
4pm

Music for the Macabre

A slew of hardcore bands shake up the underground scene

BY SAMI REISS
The McGill Daily

It's very tough indeed, with the budget constraints characteristic of hardcore shows, to have theatrics. And while Saturday's Cafe L'Inconditionnel show did not have pyrotechnics or midget contortionists, it still brought the rock, and then some. Six bands, of varying fame, took to the stage for one long night.

Anodyne took the stage first, but

seemed out of place: equal parts Sabbath and My Bloody Valentine, they teetered over the edge of abstract noise, and on that note - or lack thereof - went largely unheralded by the crowd. Their limited stage presence also did not help matters much.

Next up were newcomers Darker Day Tomorrow, hailing from scenic upstate New York. Building on the groundwork laid down by Black Sabbath (again...) the band played heavy, groove-oriented metal with the occasional melodic

break. A mixture of choice cover songs and original work earned them the audiences stamp of approval.

After that, local band A Death For Every Sin plowed through their set, drawing the most enthusiastic reaction from the crowd. The band played songs from their new LP, which were eagerly eaten up by a crowd that sang along with near violent fervor.

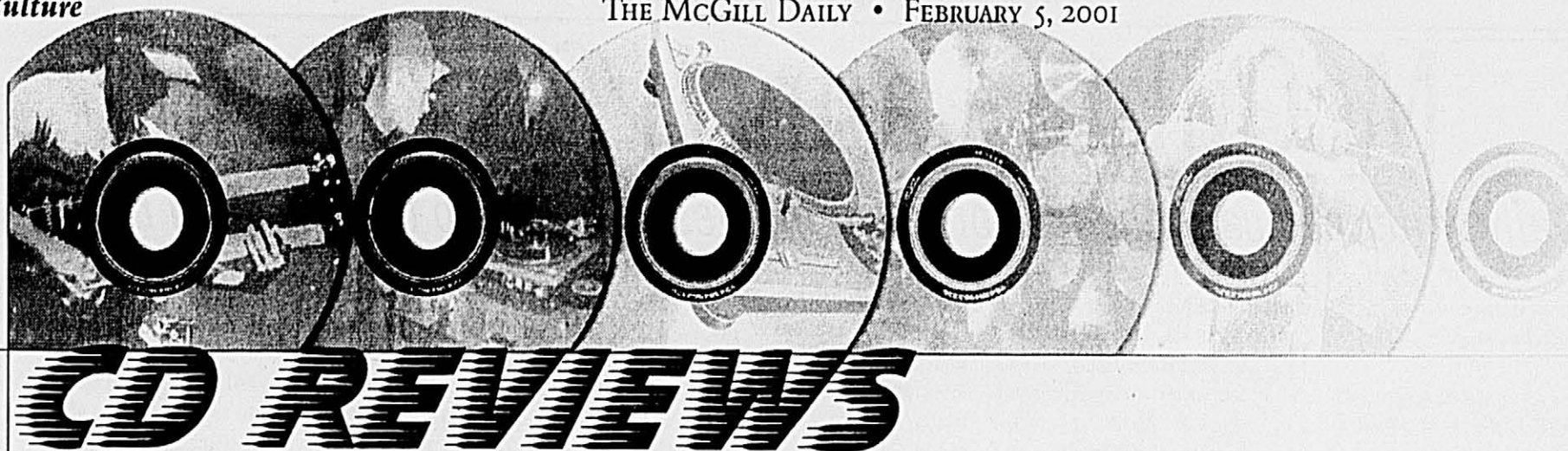
Day of Mourning kept tow of this musical party line, albeit in a lackluster manner. It was their last show, and the

crowd seemed to know their songs fairly well, which was nice - for them. They might have gone out on a high note, but it really depends on who you ask. 100 Demons - 5 Connecticut men weighing in at about a ton (metric), played music that was, frankly, heavy. It was dug by one and all, and rightly so.

Connecticut's Death Threat closed off the night with more of the heavy punk rock endemic to the show, though of a faster breed. The singer had competition from the approximately 200 kids there,

all singing along and trying to grab the mic for themselves. And that was what made the concert a success. It is always nice to enjoy a band's performance on a visual level, but to be driven to motion is another thing altogether.

It's reassuring to see that the hardcore scene in Montreal is not completely dormant. A rowdy crowd of darkly clad fans elevated the energy of the concert to turn it in to a pretty rockin' show. As long as the energy is in the music, the scene will live on.



GOOBLAR
BLEEKER AND MEEKER
INDEPENDENT

Hearing a band that still goes about making music with three instruments



the good old fashioned way has become far too rare. When one comes along with a genuine, student-produced, unpretentious promo album, you can't help but feel that warm feeling felt the first time you played a simplified version of "Smells Like Teen Spirit" in your best friend's basement. Bleeker and Meeker has all of those qualities. It isn't a fancy production, just a minimal recording of a few tunes that are meant to be played live anyways. The songs display the sounds of a post-punk era, as well as a more melodic rock genre. Listen for the beautiful "Yer Mind Is Stronger Than You Think" which has definite hit potential, should the band begin the slippery ascent to stardom. Gooblar shows that it is indeed still possible to make good songs with the friendly old power chords (even without a distortion pedal). There is nothing new or ground breaking here, but it's nice to hear that garage bands still exist and that the Backstreet Boys haven't sucked the spine out of everyone yet.

-Joel Boultvais

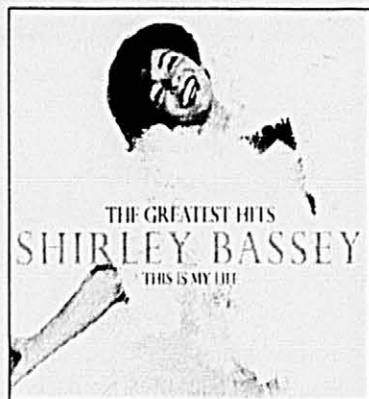
GODHEAD
2000 YEARS OF HUMAN ERROR
POSTHUMAN RECORDS

Godhead is bitching about 2000 years of human error. Truly, the band, along with their album, make up a large



part of it. With Marilyn Manson as producer, how high can the expectations be? As if there was any need for another band trying to make money off the angst-ridden teenage set. The music resembles that of Nine Inch Nails and Manson: death metal processed through a sampler with lots of dark and trippy sound effects. A few of the featured songs: "Break You Down," "I Hate Today," "I Sell Society," and a nauseating version of "Eleanor Rigby". That's right, The Beatles' song. The sad thing is that these people are actually good musicians. The songs are well crafted, and even have some surprisingly innovative parts. Too bad they decided to use their talent to bury music a little deeper, and have cash shooting out of their asses while doing so. Somehow, they manage to quote Beethoven on the cover, as if a picture of a robot-gimp-head with tubes sticking out of its skull wasn't stupid enough. But if you're into that sort of stuff, you know...don't miss out.

-Joel Boultvais



GREATEST HITS-SHIRLEY BASSEY
THIS IS MY LIFE
EMI

Add one more diva in fake eye lashes and feather boa to the already lengthy list of singers trying to collect their lives and legacies into seventy minutes and some sexy liner photos. Yup, Shirley Bassey, female incarnation of Tom Jones, preens through 22 standards and sub-standards on these, her greatest, hits.

But preening is not always bad. She fares well on the classics she was once lauded for, and what CD collection would be complete without at least one rendition of "Big Spender" somewhere in the catalogue. Also present are the requisite that allow Bassey's voice to shine almost as brightly as the rhinestone glued atop her eye lids. Nothing exciting, but good to know that the seventies set can still be counted on for a dose of faux-glam every now and then.

-Sarah Lazarovic

HUGH RAGIN TRUMPET ENSEMBLE
FANFARE AND FIESTA
JUST IN TIME RECORDS

This latest from trumpet master Hugh Ragin and his three trumpet (+ one flugelhorn) ensemble does a real nice job of bridging the gap in jazz between more traditional structures and the modern "out" sounds that have recently been bubbling up from the underground. Brass fans will certainly thrill to the sounds of these five fine trumpet players' three finger gymnastics as they pull off stunt after stunt (take, for example, the stunning ripple effect of four horns playing the same ringing fanfare at a slight interval, creating the amazing brass "echo" heard on the album's title track). The resulting sound runs the gamut of jazz from the classy up-tempo Dixieland meets swing of the album opener "Finger Filibuster" to the more avant-garde ambience of jams like "Emergency Exit". While an emphasis is certainly placed on the brass players and their mighty chops, Hugh has found himself a very solid rhythm section which does a commendable job of overseeing the bottom layers of the album's sound. Diversity is certainly this album's strength as various cuts brought to the



mind of this reviewer everything from classic Coltrane (who's note-dense approach to soloing Ragin seems to share) to the kind of free jazz jams that one might catch at the Casa del Popolo. That said, it ought to be obvious that this isn't your granddaddy's jazz, but if you're looking for something with elements of classic tunefulness and the cutting edge of jazz improv, the latest from Hugh & co. is a real good bet.

-Patrick Guyer

THE MAHONES
HERE COMES LUCKY
INDEPENDENT

This is the fourth album by the Kingston, Ontario "Celtic rock" band The Mahones, and I'm wondering how they've existed so long. If you want an

idea of what they sound like, imagine Garth Brooks with a fake Irish accent, trying to sound punk and failing miserably. The majority of the songs are about how drunk the band members are, with names like "Whiskey Devils" and "Is This Bar Open Till Tomorrow". When these guys venture beyond that topic and attempt a love song, the result is even more ridiculous. Perhaps they were still drunk when they sat down to write the lyrics. The music itself is mostly sloppy upbeat, with the same general rhythm throughout. In fact, the songs "One Last Shot" and "Raise Your Hands" are virtually the same song with different lyrics. I must admit that this is the first quasi-punk Celtic country rock band I've ever heard, but the novelty of this idea wears off after the first "yee-ha." This could



have been done a lot better, and some fusions are better left unexplored.

-Katie Porch

DROPKICK MURPHYS
SING LOUD, SING PROUD
HELLCAT RECORDS

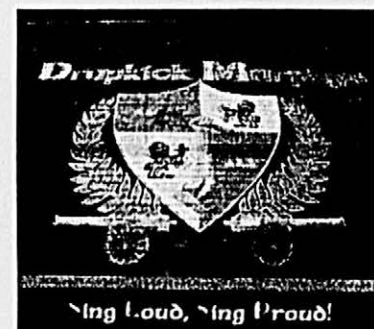
What's better than drinking? Singing when you're drunk, and nobody captures the spirit of drunken mirth better than a bunch of working class Irish immigrants. It just so happens that the Dropkick Murphys fit this description.

A motley collection that, among others, includes a bagpiper, an accordion and a mandolin player. The Murphys hail from Boston, and make no mistake of their Irish heritage. The album is comprised of garrulous songs celebrating things from their hometown to the "spicy McHaggis jig." Sentimental odes are passed up for upbeat ditties about the benefits of alcohol and the curse of the Irish.

If you dared to place this ribald music into some kind of category, it would probably fall under the heading 'drunken punk rock.' That said the band does stay true to the tradition of Irish folk music, in that it kind of makes you want to do the jig. The swinging bagpipes are definitely the high point of the album.

I should probably say something about the lack of talent the Murphys suffer from in terms of musicianship. But it really doesn't matter because this lot laces their tunes with such energy that you can't help cracking a smile, and if no one is looking maybe the occasional foot tap. 'Merry' is probably the best way to describe the album as it doesn't get caught up in teary emotions. I don't know if you'll like this album sober, but I definitely recommend after you've had a few.

-Sinclair Malone



DARKER DAY TOMORROW
NO SLEEP IN FORTY DAYS
REDSTAR RECORDS

Black Sabbath are both the Elvis Presley and the Beatles of heavy music. Over three decades after their break-up, their albums are still influencing metal artists. Darker Day Tomorrow makes a good case for taking their place.

Darker Day Tomorrow borrows equally from their Syracuse hardcore ilk (Another Victim and Santa Sangre, specifically), Sabbath heirs Damnation AD and, oddly enough, British bands like the Sundays and the Cure. They forge a sound that is in effect a warmer and more melodic version of Black Sabbath. The old meets the new when the phasers, synchro-solos and electronics, all in the same song, compliment the power-chord sludge.

Now it is fairly characteristic of those on the musical periphery (read: "feisty" critics) to note small, seemingly insignificant musical trends as artistic watersheds, but the Black Sabbath hardcore resurgence might be exactly that.

While Darker Day Tomorrow's vocals are more grunted than yelped, their lyrics give precedence to personal travails over cannabis and Iron Men. One might correctly be inclined to view them as 'New' Glasgow's newest incarnates for the year 2001. Any considerate eye would watch for big things from Darker Day Tomorrow.

-Sami Reiss

McGill to Launch Boy Band

Daily writer bemoans the lack of talent in latest addition to the boy band bunch

BY O-LIVIA POJAR
Culture Reporter

"It's music, it's artistic growth, it's reality TV, it's reality, it's O-Town."

Likely the two most annoying things about culture in the year 2000 were "reality" TV and pop music (think Britney-Mandy-Christina-Jessica-Spears). Granted there was also the awful movie schedule and the revival of preppiness that rivals Reagan-era America. However, the excess of plastic pop stars and naked fat guys named Richard frolicking on island beaches get the prize for stupidest trends of the year.

So now that 2000 is finally over, it could be assumed that these catastrophes embodied would simply fade away. Not so. The evil masterminds behind N'Sync and the Backstreet Boys have cloned yet another boy band: O-Town. Not only is O-

Town genetically identical to all previous boy bands, but ABC decided it would be a great idea to make a reality TV show about them called *Making the Band*. Five gorgeous and talented guys packed into a house and filmed for 24 hours a day...now that's reality.

And now after six agonizingly long months, O-Town has finally released an album. According to the press release, "O-Town's back, and their ready to rock." That's right...their ready to rock.

The CD is awful. Despite the fact that Lou Pearlman (evil mastermind) spent millions of dollars auditioning strapping young lads from all over North America and paying disillusioned music majors to write O-Town's songs, the album sucks. It's not catchy and a lot of the songs sound like 'N Sync b-sides. The lyrical depth can be summed up by the one line: "They don't feel you like I do. Cause I'm about to

make you my wifey. My wifey."

Apparently, says one of the studs, Dan Miller, they "just want to be creative and push the lines of music." And Ashley Angel assures us that "we're not some cookie-cutter group, who has each decision made for us." Right. It's not like they

were assembled by an evil mastermind to appeal to a certain pre-teen demographic by remaining purposefully effeminate and therefore less frightening to a pubescent girl still afraid of her sexuality and needing a

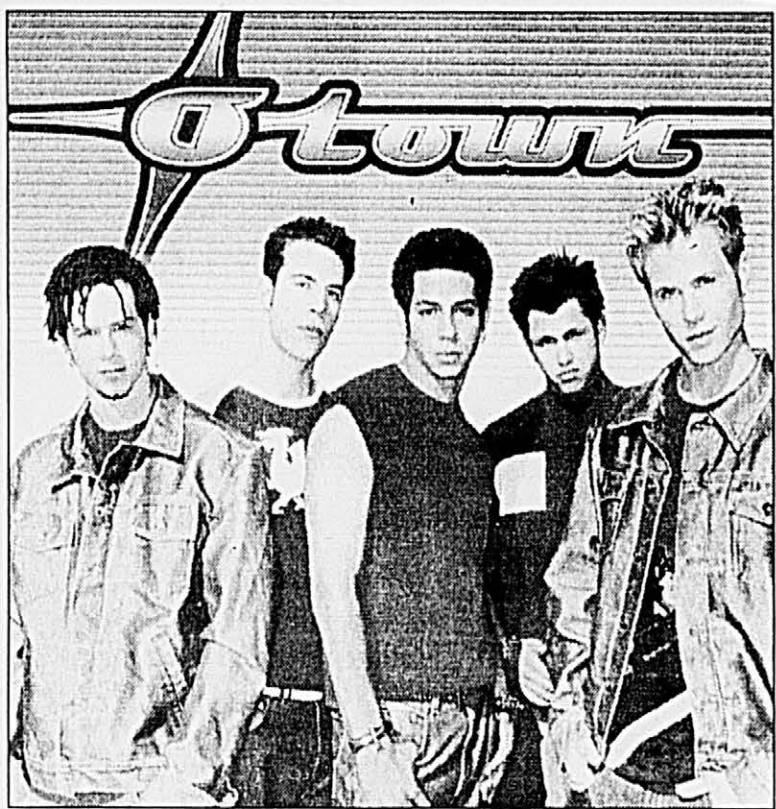
"sensitive guy" like Ashley Angel to understand that sucking dick in the bathroom is as far as she's gonna go.

And yet, despite the fact that they are plastic and pre-assembled and their music is appalling, this is entertainment at its finest. *Making the Band* was apparently very popular and there are over 11,000 hits on their website.

"It appeals to the ladies" says Angel.

"Let's be real," says Trevor Penick, (aka - token ethnic guy), "this is every guy's dream."

So what I propose is this: a McGill boy band. Auditions could be held around campus and filmed by TV McGill. Considering the diverse student body, we could easily fill all the required categories; ethnic boy, pretty boy, sporty boy, deep moody boy (hello arts steps), and my personal favourite, scary weird boy. 'N Telligentsia...Pre-teen-scious...The BMH Boys...we'll make millions.



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The Kid Can Sing!

Local boy Mark Harris has sights set on the stars

BY PAUL BERRY
Culture Reporter

In the storied tradition of musicians who undergo some sort of dramatic personality makeover in the minutes before they step on stage Mark Harris is a man of many faces. In conversation, the 20-year old Montrealer bears only a passing resemblance to the emotional powder keg that his performances let loose.

During a leisurely daytime chat, Harris is as soft-spoken as they come, offering humble discourse on his love of music and its creators. But when he is perched on his trusty piano bench, Harris delivers the an aggressive and raw performance.

Harris is also the singer for Bitter Rind, a band whose recent rise to stardom was slowed by the defection of the band's rhythm section. This has left Harris all the more time to fine tune his solo act. During a pair of recent performances at Griffintown Cafe, the singer kept his devoted followers in the palm of his hand. With covers of diverse material ranging from Tori Amos to Tool combined with his helping of passionate original numbers, the crowd was quite vocal in expressing their approval.

Among his most treasured influences, Harris cites the aforementioned Amos and noted screamer Diamanda Gals not only for their talent but their intimate performances as well. According to Harris, Gals and her four octave range reminds you that you have blood in your veins.

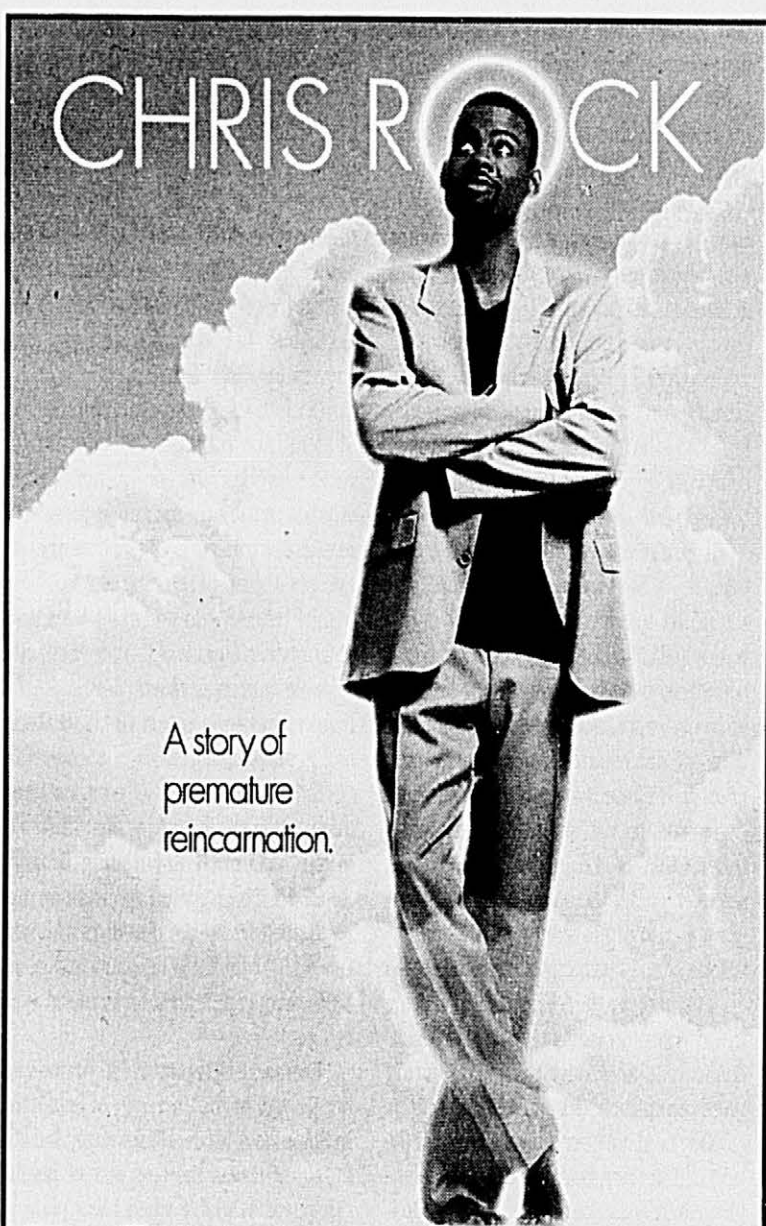
He sees his own shows as similarly cathartic experiences for both performer and audience. Possessing a delicious dark side, Harris' onstage interactions with the audience reveal an acerbic wit that lurks beneath his often somber song selections. Previous shows have also offered something of a family reunion as Harris has been joined by his younger sisters Erin and Aileen. Each add a unique and distinctly innocent component to his music.

Be it with his band, on his solo excursions, or during his poetry/prose performances, Mark Harris is very much his own man. He has developed a style which engages the audience and makes for a thoroughly entertaining show. Mark Harris is a dynamic entertainer and the opportunity to see him for such a low price may not always be present. I strongly encourage everyone to check out his solo show this week at the Griffintown Café.

Mark Harris at Griffintown Café,
1378 Notre-Dame West, corner De La Montagne Saturday, Feb. 10 at 8:30
with opener Brian Limoyo. Tickets
are \$4.



Mark Harris getting freaky



A story of
premature
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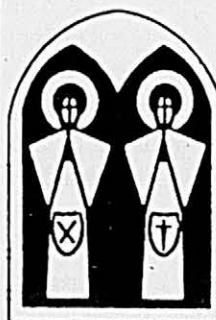
Sunday, February 11, 2001 at 3 p.m.

Clara Lichtenstein Hall (Room C-209)

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Organized by Dr. Barbara Galli: 398-6027

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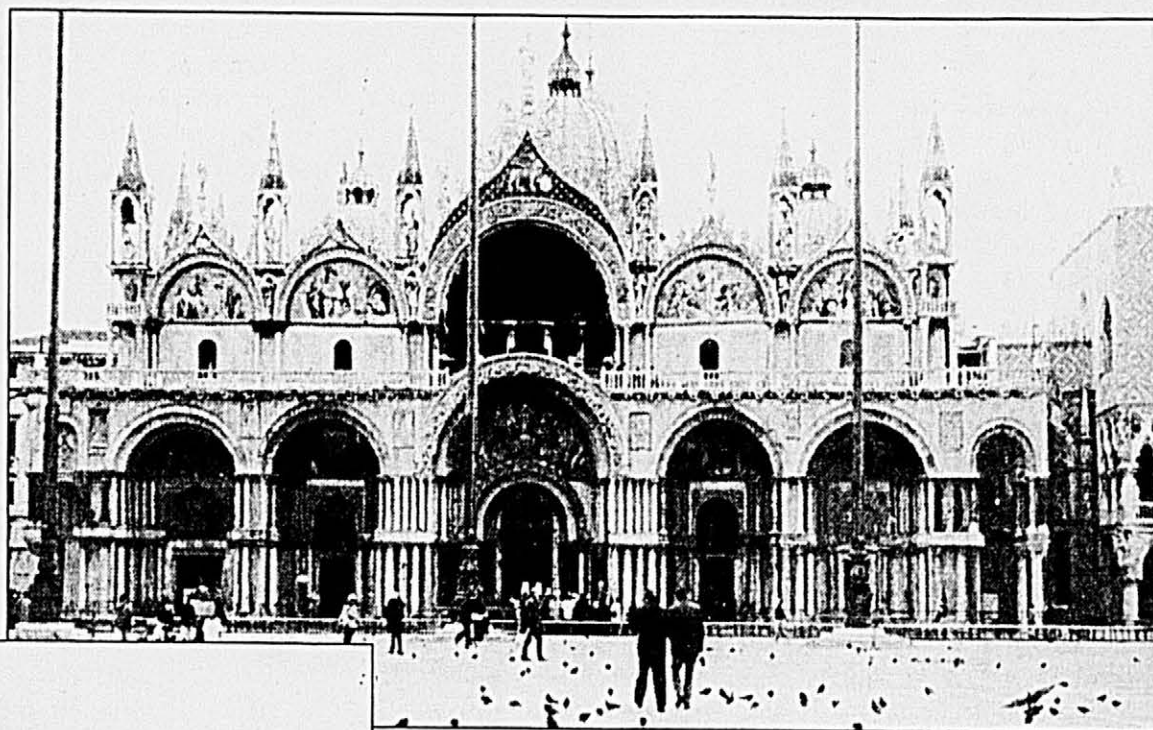
Study Abroad!

Applications for study abroad programs due February 7th...are you ready?

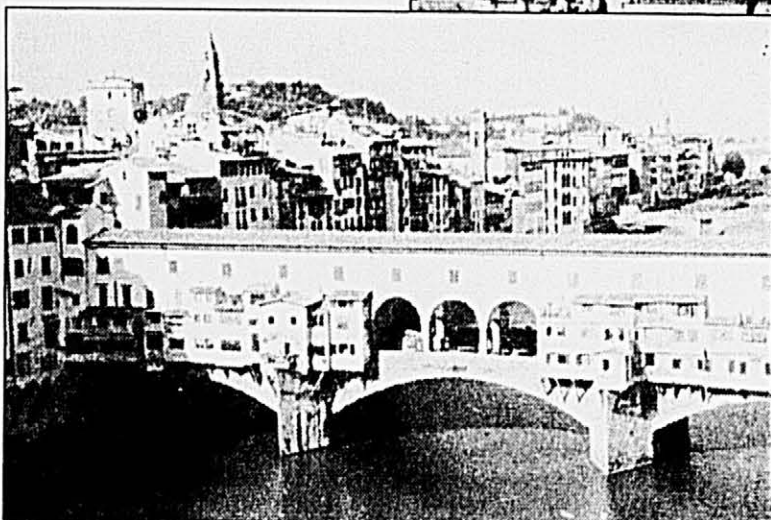
BY ALISON BRUNETTE
The McGill Daily

If the thought of another Montreal winter is too much to bear, or you're simply getting ants in your pants about trotting the globe, you could find yourself walking the beaches of Australia or visiting the Louvre as early as next year without even compromising your degree.

Unfortunately, McGill's Exchange Office does little to entice students to look at the option of the semester or year abroad. The office is tiny, the information available on partner schools is often years behind, and if you're looking into a school that doesn't have an exchange agreement with McGill, you're on your own. But with



This is Place San Marco in Venice...it's either this or Peel Pub, your pick.



Porte Vecchio, Florence. Wow.

all an exchange has to offer, research and red tape shouldn't stop you from having a look at what is available.

McGill's Student Exchanges and Study Abroad Program can send you to just about any country that piques your interest in either a Bilateral exchange or a CREPUQ (Conference of Rectors and Principals of Quebec Universities) exchange.

The bilateral exchange is an agreement made between McGill and various other universities, that each will accept a limited number of students from the other institution — essentially it is a student trade-off. Each university accepts a limited number of applicants, and since the agreement depends on reciprocity, spaces in each university are quite limited.

Melissa Lamarca, a fourth year student, spent her third year at Australian National University in the capital of Canberra during the academic year of 1999/2000, studying a wide variety of subjects ranging from Human Ecology to Economics and pursuing a public policy internship with Environment Australia. "In academic terms, studying at the ANU was a fantastic experience. The profs I had were excellent as were the classes — much smaller sizes than the average McGill class, much more participatory, innovative teaching methods. The best experience was the public pol-

icy internship in Environment Australia, this would be particularly great for anyone in Poli Sci, as all placements are in Parliament with Senators/Ministers, Defense, and other government agencies.

Another alternative, the CREPUQ exchange, is an agreement made on behalf of all Quebec Universities in which McGill students compete for places with students from other Quebec Universities on these exchanges. The number of places available for McGill students varies directly with the number of applications received from other Quebec universities.

In case you're wondering about the expense of such a venture, tuition abroad will remain the equivalent of the 15 credit McGill tuition as well as related fees per semester. Students are then responsible for their airfare, visa, and living expenses (basically any other expense) once in the country.

If neither of these exchanges tickles your fancy another option is to claim "Visiting Student" status which requires a GPA of 2.7 and authorization or a letter of permission from the Student Affairs Office of your faculty. This type of exchange however, is more independent and requires students to pay the tuition fees of that university.

Regan Morris, a Biology major, did a year exchange at l'Université Joseph Fourier in Grenoble France and said, "I

had a great time, I got to meet so many new people from around the world, I learned to speak a second language, I lived in another culture, and I studied in a completely different environment. All of these things broadened my outlook and my education." Regan had a great time, but reminds us of potential difficulties when going on exchange. "I did, however, encounter some problems. My school made some errors in my transcript and now I have to worry about getting courses transferred and the like. The exchange office has been very helpful and I guess administrative problems should be expected."

If you're wondering why you never thought of this ingenious plan before, one should be informed of the "small print" before packing one's bags. Before being considered for acceptance on one of these scholarly swaps, one must meet the standards of the international exchange program gods. These include being a full-time, degree-seeking McGill student with a minimum CGPA of 3.0, including Fall 2000 semester grades. Acceptance into the program is also contingent upon meeting the criteria of one's respective faculty at McGill.

The powers that be strongly recommend going on exchange for a full academic year, and suggest doing so during one's penultimate (second last) year.

One need not worry about arriving at the host country and being confronted by language barriers, since another prerequisite is being able to prove your fluency in the language of the host institution if the language of instruction is other than English. This can be done with providing proof of having passed a high level course in that language at McGill or having done previous studies in the language in question.

After having done the requisite amount of research and filling out a plethora of

paper work, one must also include: a photocopy of one's birth certificate, a one page statement of purpose for participating in the exchange, two letters of recommendation in sealed envelopes (one from a McGill professor), a resume, high school or CEGEP transcript, a list of eight courses per semester, an affidavit of financial resources indicating that you have the funds to participate in the exchange and you must have faculty approval.

Once the year abroad is complete, the Student Affairs Office of your faculty decides on the credit equivalency of courses taken at the host institution. In order to receive this transfer credit, one must maintain a satisfactory standing at McGill during the resident year and maintain a grade of C or better. A grade of C- is deemed unacceptable and a grade of B- or better is required by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research.

Still interested? The next exchange information session is Nov. 17 at 12:30 p.m. in the McConnell Engineering Building, Room 13. The required applications must be handed in by the due dates (Monday, Feb. 5, 2001 for CREPUQ applications, and Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2001 for Bilateral applications.)

Emma, a U3 Spanish Lit. major spent her U2 year at the University of Salamanca in Spain on a bilateral exchange, and contests that it was the best year of her life. "Help was available when I was planning my exchange, but it was not necessarily satisfactory. McGill only sent me my acceptance information over email in August when I was due to leave in September."

Despite the loopholes and chaos of planning, Emma maintains that the academic experience she gained from her exchange was invaluable. "It was the best

year of my life and I strongly encourage anyone to do it."

For any further information about McGill's exchange and study abroad program, the Student Exchanges and Study Abroad is located in the James Administration Building Annex and a little booklet with a fuschia cover called "Steps to a Successful Exchange" will answer most, if not all, of your questions. — with files from Juda Strawczynski

BEFORE GOING AWAY ON YOUR STUDY ABROAD EXCURSION

1. Although they're nice, the people at the Exchange Office know little about the partner schools available to students, partly because McGill has so many partner schools to select from. The Exchange Office is a great help in clearing you through McGill's bureaucracy, but expect to do any other grunt work by yourself. Partner school websites can help, but if you know anyone who has previously studied in the country you're looking at, it's worth treating them to coffee and picking their brains.

2. Yes, CREPUQ exchanges are for you, too. CREPUQ allows McGill students to go to pretty much any school in France, as well as a pile of others scattered through Europe, Asia, Latin America and basically the rest of the world. So if you don't like any of the options through the Bilateral agreements, check out CREPUQ.

3. Planning: go talk to advisors! It is best to develop a sense of what you're going to need to do to your piece of paper at the end of it all. Of course, the courses you plan to take while abroad will likely be tossed for something different once you arrive. Still, a game plan is a good thing to have before going away. Plans B and C could help, too.

4. Bother the powers that be if you haven't heard if you've been accepted or not. Don't expect much off an answer, but sometimes it can kick-start the process.

5. Tick off the residence option where available. You never know, it could save you time, energy and money. French residences, for example, are ridiculously cheap (approx. \$160 CDN/mo. without food).

—by Juda Strawczynski

*I've always
wanted to...*

Take the Morning After Pill

Who: If you've had unprotected sex (and you're female) in the past 72 hours, you are able to take the morning after pill.

What: The MAP is a contraceptive pill, not an abortive pill (in contrast with the Abortion Pill) that is basically a method of preventing pregnancy to be used when a condom breaks, after a sexual assault or any time after unprotected sexual intercourse.

Where: You can get it through the McGill Student Health Services (in the Brown Building), at the CLSC near the Guy metro station.

When: Monday through Friday, 9-5 p.m.; drop in the Health Services before 4.

Cost: Varies, depending on the prescription brand but may range between \$30-50. Check your insurance to see if this is covered completely in your plan.

Phone: CLSC- 934-0354, Student Health Services at 398-6017

Comments: Do NOT use this as your only form of contraception! It does not prevent against STD's, nor is it 100% effective, in fact, it is only 85% effective. Also, there are some side effects that can be quite unpleasant. Nausea and cramping are the most common. The prescription brands available include Plan B™, Ovral™ and Preven™ emergency contraceptive kit. According to the get-thepill.com website (where you can obtain prescriptions online for MAP and birth control pills), Plan B™ is the best option due to fewer side effects and potentially higher efficacy in terms of preventing pregnancy. It is not widely available as of yet, but it may be in pharmacies now. If you are using the MAP due to a sexual assault, please be sure to report the incident and get medically examined. Call either the Sexual Assault Center of McGill's Student Society at 398-2700 or the McGill Student Health Services.

I Won't Be Getting Any Kumquats This Week

Or, Crouching Franklin, Hidden Sackville, Complaining Gourmand



BY FRANKLIN SACKVILLE
The Daily Gourmand

As I see it, the restaurant review column is one of those slippery slopes in the world of journalism. The point is of to be objective, but in a subjective way. It also can be quite expensive. You see, gentle readers, The Daily has made the unfortunate decision to allocate its funds to "ink" and "paper" instead of restaurant meals for its Gourmand. This makes the possibility of scamming free meals highly

appealing. However, even someone with slippery ethics like mine feels a slight bit of discomfort when telling a restaurateur that I'm writing a review to get better service. After all, my readers wouldn't be getting that kind of service, unless I advise them all to say they're writing a review. I don't endorse this, as it would lead to restaurant owners wising up and my days of milk and honey coming to an unfortunate end. So don't do it.

I did ask for a copy of the menu at a mildly expensive sushi place once, to subtly hint that I would need it for my research. I was subsequently rewarded with a plate of fruit at the end of the meal, including what I believe were kumquats. I learned a lot about myself on that fateful night. For instance, I enjoy kumquats. Also, I got the big screw on the bill even with the free fruit. So I have resolved to disguise myself to the restaurateur. Using the ancient arts of the ninja, I become

Crouching Franklin, Hidden Sackville. I leap from treetop to treetop, pausing only to complain about chlorine-tainted water. Which brings me to the point of today's column: complaints. I have a bunch of my own, and I hear a fair number from friends and associates. While a bunch of gripes are certainly fun to write, they aren't so fun to read, so I've limited myself to this one column. Here we go.

The muffins at VegiRama in the Arts Building are consistently stale, one reader reports. Another reader sent in a queasy story involving a bug in her soup at Just Noodles. When she made light of the situation by asking the waiter if she would have to pay extra for the insect, he snapped at her. One would think that the establishment would be falling over themselves to

remedy such an awkward situation. As I wrote last week, you're always tempting the fates by eating too much 99 cent pizza. A pair of readers had a horrible experience with Giovan pizza, involving white-knuckle intestinal upsets and a late night trip to the Royal Vic emergency room.

Some pretty damaging statements may have been included in this column, and I make no apologies for it. However, the high minded point is to encourage improvement, not run businesses into the ground. If restaurants have changed their ways, I'm just as happy to impart this knowledge. Email me at the address below and I'll let my devoted horde of readers know.

Franklin Sackville can be contacted at feasts@mcgilldaily.com.

Rosemary Focaccia Bread

*Baking your own breadiness to
impress even Uncle Gianni*

Who doesn't want a big old loaf of rosemary focaccia bread to add aroma to any house and joy to any heart? This recipe is relatively simple, so don't come crying to The Daily if it doesn't work out for you. If this is your first time following a recipe, take a deep breath and make sure you've got all the ingredients before you begin this adventurous endeavor. Enjoy with a big plate of penne arrabbiata, a garden salad, some chianti and you will feel semi-Italian. Have fun, ciao!

You will need:

- 1/4 oz. active, dry yeast (sounds scary, but it is really fairly common)
- 1/2 teaspoon sugar
- 1 cup lukewarm water (again, sounds complicated but just nuke it for a couple minutes)
- 3 1/2 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 5 Tablespoons olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon minced garlic (minced=very finely chopped, rookie)
- 1 Tablespoon finely chopped rosemary (this is key-get fresh rosemary, not dried stuff)
- 1 Tablespoon coarse salt

Continuing on...

1. Combine yeast, sugar and lukewarm water and let sit until foamy.
2. Add the flour, regular salt, 3 of the Tablespoons of the olive oil and mix.
3. Knead (which means massage with your hands...feels good, eh?) until slightly sticky and make it into a ball.
4. Put this lovely ball into an oiled bowl (don't use the remaining 2 Tablespoons olive oil to grease the bowl, you'll need it later). Turn it around in the bowl to coat the ball with oil.
5. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap and leave it alone to let it rise for 1 1/2 hours. Go study or something, but don't bug the dough.
6. Then, press the dough (after this 1 1/2 hours are up) into a 10 X 15 pan and let it rise for another hour.
7. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees.
8. Stir the 2 remaining Tablespoons olive oil, the garlic and the rosemary together in a small bowl.
9. Dimple the dough (like, make dimples in the dough with your fingers. Dimples, moron, not holes!).
10. Brush the dimpled dough with the oil-garlic-rosemary mixture, throw some coarse salt on it and bake it in the bottom of the oven for 35-45 minutes.
11. Take it out, let it cool, then garnish with fresh rosemary sprigs and coarse salt.
12. Voila! You're officially initiated into the Esteemed BreadMaker's Guild. Congratulations. Call your Uncle Gianni.



Vice-Principal (Information Systems and Technology)

The Advisory Committee for the Selection of a Vice-Principal (Information Systems and Technology) has been struck and is now reviewing Professor Anthony Masi's performance as Acting Vice-Principal (Information Systems and Technology).

We invite members of the McGill community to comment in terms of their own experience with Professor Masi as Acting Vice-Principal (Information Systems and Technology). In accordance with the University's usual practice, all comments will be kept strictly confidential and they should be forwarded to:

Dr. Bernard Shapiro, Principal
c/o Mrs. Mary Shaw
McGill University
845 Sherbrooke Street West, Room 608
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Pussy Poll Results Are In

*McGill community's vaginal
knowledge is exposed*

BY SARI LONG
The McGill Daily

Earlier this week, The Daily and the Women's Union were hitting the streets, cafeterias and pubs, polling McGill students (and others) about their knowledge and creativity concerning the female genitalia.

Each person polled was presented with eight diagrams of the female anatomy and asked to identify certain features, then use their creativity to discern, Rorschach-test-style, figures or famous faces within the diagrams.

The results may be surprising, but the intent of the survey was to raise awareness of the upcoming V-Day. V-Day is on Feb. 14, Valentine's Day, but is a day to seek the end to violence against women. In conjunction with the awareness for this day is the performance of the already sold-out play *Vagina Monologues*. The following is a percentage breakdown of the survey responses, distinguished by gender and followed by the more interesting responses received in the survey process.

Questions:

1. Can you identify where the clitoris is on any of these diagrams?
2. Can you identify where the labia minora or the labia majora are on any of these diagrams?
3. Can you identify on any of these diagrams where the vagina itself is?
4. What famous people/objects do any of these diagrams of female genitalia resemble?
5. Do you know when or what V-Day is?
6. What is your year and program?

Percentages and breakdowns:

• 76% of men know where the clitoris is...what have the other 24% been doing these past five years?? Women, 92% of you know where your love button is...the other 8%? Get your mirrors out and begin exploration.

• Only 41% of males surveyed could identify the "labia minora" or the "labia majora." To the lay person, that's "inner and outer lips." Alas! 92% of the ladies could correctly identify this feature.

• An astounding 47% of males and 67% of females could identify where the vagina itself was on the diagrams! Men, you have your explanation now when your girlfriends have been telling you for a while now that "that's not it..." Women, what could the explanation there be?

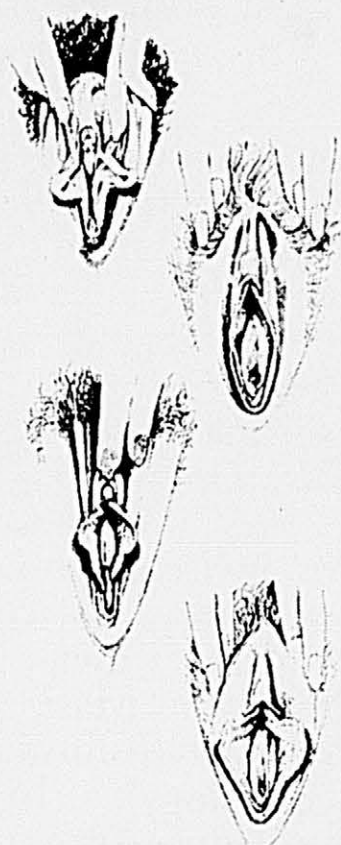
• Common responses to Question #4 included various references to natural phenomena, such as flowers, various sea life, including manta rays, starfish and jellyfish. Also mentioned were figures of cloaked women, hearts, clowns, aliens and

monsters. Some more of the unusual responses included more than a few people saying the Virgin Mary, a few mentioned resemblances to various SSU execs who will remain anonymous. The following are just a few of the more interesting comparisons made between the female genitalia diagrams and people or things:

• A female U2 Women's Studies' student said that one of the diagrams resembled Richard Simmons.

• A male U3 Political Science student made the comparison between one diagram and Groucho Marx.

• A male U3 Applied Math student said that all of the 8 diagrams put together were like Snow White and the 7 Dwarves.



Four of the eight vagina diagrams



Diving into Water Polo

*The legacy of rashes, scratches,
and elbow jabs by large men*

BY ARNI SLOG
Mind&Body Reporter

Inner tube water polo has always been a bit of an enigma to the world outside. There are no existing mental constructs to place such an unusual sport in context, so we got inner tube water polo player Ryan Dymont to shed some light on this elusive sport.

Daily: Inner tube water polo, huh? What's that all about?

Ryan Dymont: Well, it's essentially that you get a yellow ball that can bounce in water and you sit in a tube. It's like hockey in water except no sticks and instead of pads you wear a tube. It's actually kind of a ridiculous sport. I like real water polo better.

Daily: How'd you get into it?

RD: A friend approached me about it. I played real water polo in high school and it was competitive. I guess they don't have it here because people can't swim, so since they can't, they go in a tube. Why is there no real water polo? Well, nobody knows. There's a big demand. I wonder what can be done about it [Wink wink, tries to slip me money].

Daily: Stop that. Stop that right now!

What's your team name?

RD: We don't really have a name, we're Crew Team. I'm not really on crew, though. Ha ha. I'm one of two people that aren't actually on crew. Wait, come to think of it, our name is the Shooting Seamen. Oh yeah, there's two teams. We have an Olympian on our team. Our captain is Cindy.

Daily: Right. Can you give some background as to the rules involved?

RD: You can't capsize anyone when they don't have the ball, you can't hold on to someone's tube and once off the tube, you can't touch the ball. Otherwise, there's an off-sides rule. It's a sexist sport, though. Girls get 2 points for a goal and guys only get 1.

Daily: Does it ever get bloody or violent?

RD: I got elbowed in face by some really big 6'4" guy and it really hurt. If I wasn't so strong in my nose bones, it would've been bloody. And there's scratching involved and the tube rubs on your body so you have a rash. Second, there's this pointy thing where you inflate the tube and it goes right where you sit and for guys, it digs right there. [points to general groin area] It's a ridiculous spot. It's a foot long!

Daily: Hm. So how long does a game last?

RD: There are two halves, 15 minutes each, maybe 20.

Daily: Is it tiring?

RD: Yeah it is, because you gotta move backwards because moving forward doesn't get you anywhere. You can't use your legs because you're not in a position to kick and your arms get tired.

Daily: Do you have any standout players?

RD: This Olympian girl is really good.

Daily: When's your next matchup?

RD: We have games every Sunday, I think we play at 2 p.m. Get a crowd out. It's actually Crew A vs. Crew B. The other team has two or three Olympians but they're all at a tournament or something. They're really good.

Daily: Any final words about inner tube water polo?

RD: You know that 6'4" guy? He didn't even apologize! Bastard. [punches fist into the wall, fails and cradles broken hand, muttering]

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Examining the Myth of Sexual Chemistry



BY JASON REHEL
(sitting in for John LeSare)

I would seem that the competition for sex copy space in the Daily has gotten rather "stiff" in recent weeks, what with the arrival of new "comers" Ms. Randi Reyes and Odd Todd. I was thrilled to the gills to bear, however, that my unabated domination will continue soon, as I am returned to weekly prominence. But I'm taking this week off!!! And I mean off!!! Here's Jay... — John LeSare

Oh and a painful January it was. My prick buried in the snow (a dual peril of sledding and celibacy) and my psyche cowering deep in my dark, warm, moist room with Morrissey crooning his loneliest vocal tremors over my creaking drums (no wonder the column on vaginas last week struck

such a nerve. I'm living inside one!)

But this time spent deep down inside the cavities of reflection has afforded me a response to a letter which LeSare received from a dear reader on January 8, 2001. As I lay, spread-eagle, under a tent of blankets, pillows, pizza boxes and various copies of The Daily and Saturday Night, I found myself cringing at his/her question the first day I read it over. Notwithstanding the reader's tongue-in-cheek confidence in LeSare's "experience" as The Daily's Don Juan, (he's much more comparable in reality to Nick Hornby's desperate Rob from *High Fidelity*, i.e. lots of pain, little experience), I decided to lend my flimsy caress to this tender situation. Trying to tackle the issue of what constitutes sexual chemistry and how it comes to lay its claim on our time, senses and loins. Even though its fickleness often leaves us wondering why we started what we started in the first place, is something which has been an ongoing project of mine ever since I first fucked a friend.

Perhaps s/he's presently reading, wondering what the hell "fucking a friend" has to do with her letter.

What do you think about chemistry? Sexual chemistry? Does it exist? What if you think you're totally attracted to someone - you like the way they look, the feel of their body against yours, love their smell - but when it comes to actual physical "action", neither of you are especially turned on? The kissing is good, but as soon

as things go beyond that, well, we're about as responsive to each other as if we were just shaking hands. Even alcohol, nerves, or poor technique shouldn't be able to kill things this effectively, should they?

The only times that I have been legitimately confused about chemistry and how it relates to physical affection (or doesn't) have been with friends who became my sexual partners or when I fucked ugly, smelly, drunk people. My personal experience in this area being thus severely limited, I will resort instead to a discussion, my manifesto, if you will, of what I think "chemistry" is, what it does, what it doesn't do, and how much trouble I think it really causes for good, honest, horny people.

The truth is that I am not really an honest "horny" person. I am unsure as to my status as an honest person, but I will leave that for my peers to decide, and I am entirely sure that I am not a horny person, except of course when I am horny. I will venture to say even, that I have, during a heated sexual encounter (or three), totally tuned out on her. Even the important and really amazing ones. Different people have different levels of libido, different thresholds of pleasure, just like they have different thresholds of pain. The initial attractive devices, as I'll call them, the primitive glancing touch, the smell of their skin and clothes, can be as deceiving as the words the people themselves speak in attempts to lure us in. The old adage "trust your sens-

es" is really really really what it seems: a sex-cliche of the highest order, plugged into all the narratives we know of as successful models of Western love and sex. It sells perfume, clothing, beer and all kinds of other smut. We buy it all, physically and metaphorically, in search of the "perfect encounter," which is, as I see it, illusory. It's

"To find out whether you're moving in on a banana split or just another grape popsicle you have no choice but to ask questions"

the fracture in any encounter that ends up meaning the most. The awkwardness and the rewarding feeling of getting beyond it. This matters.

There are a number of possible reasons for this reader's difficulty in moving beyond the threads of human interaction into more meaningful human contact. Patterns of abuse, upbringing, sexual experience, and self-esteem/identity are amongst the issues which can all play a role in the stunting of even the brightest of sparks. I've been there, and it's kind of disheartening, but it's human love, and it is not perfect, even though it's sold that way.

In my case, I've often found that learning when you are being tricked by your loins involves moving beyond the myth of "sexual chemistry" as a determining factor of attraction. To find out whether you're moving in on a banana split or just another grape popsicle you have no choice but to ask questions. Otherwise you'll end up with your head up a dog's ass, which in a nutshell for me means having disgustingly meaningless and pleasure-less sex. Sniffing crevices and batting lashes can only get you so far into a person's, well, person. The battle is waged over coffee, not on the dance floor. This is, of course, an over-simplification and a generalization, but I firmly hold true to the point that "sexual chemistry," at least as far as my reader is concerned with going beyond the surface level of attraction, involves establishing a basis of comfort which allows both parties an "open line" of actual dialogue. It's a place to figure out what works, what doesn't, and how to get it to work. So in brief, no, I don't believe in sexual chemistry, but gosh, I can still smell her on my clothes sometimes and it drives me crazy 'cause in the words of Jarvis Cocker, I still remember the first time.

Next Week: Johnny returns with a vengeance, looking to roll heads in a discussion of pornography, where to find the good stuff and how to use it with a friend. email M. LeSare at laid@hot-mail.com

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Before we were so rudely interrupted, I was talking about people that try and walk right up your bum when walking on sidewalks. I have also decided that people that walk in front of you and wander back and forth are also annoying. But not as annoying as people in cars. It isn't really anything specific that they do, it is just the whole being inside of a car that bugs me. All smug and pollution. Also pigeons. And people who don't like children. Differential tuition not at all. But Zach, a whole lot (not really, but he likes to see his name in print).

Anyway, I really don't have anything to say today, I am very tired and not really all that awake. So. That is all.

Good Day. Uncle Cam

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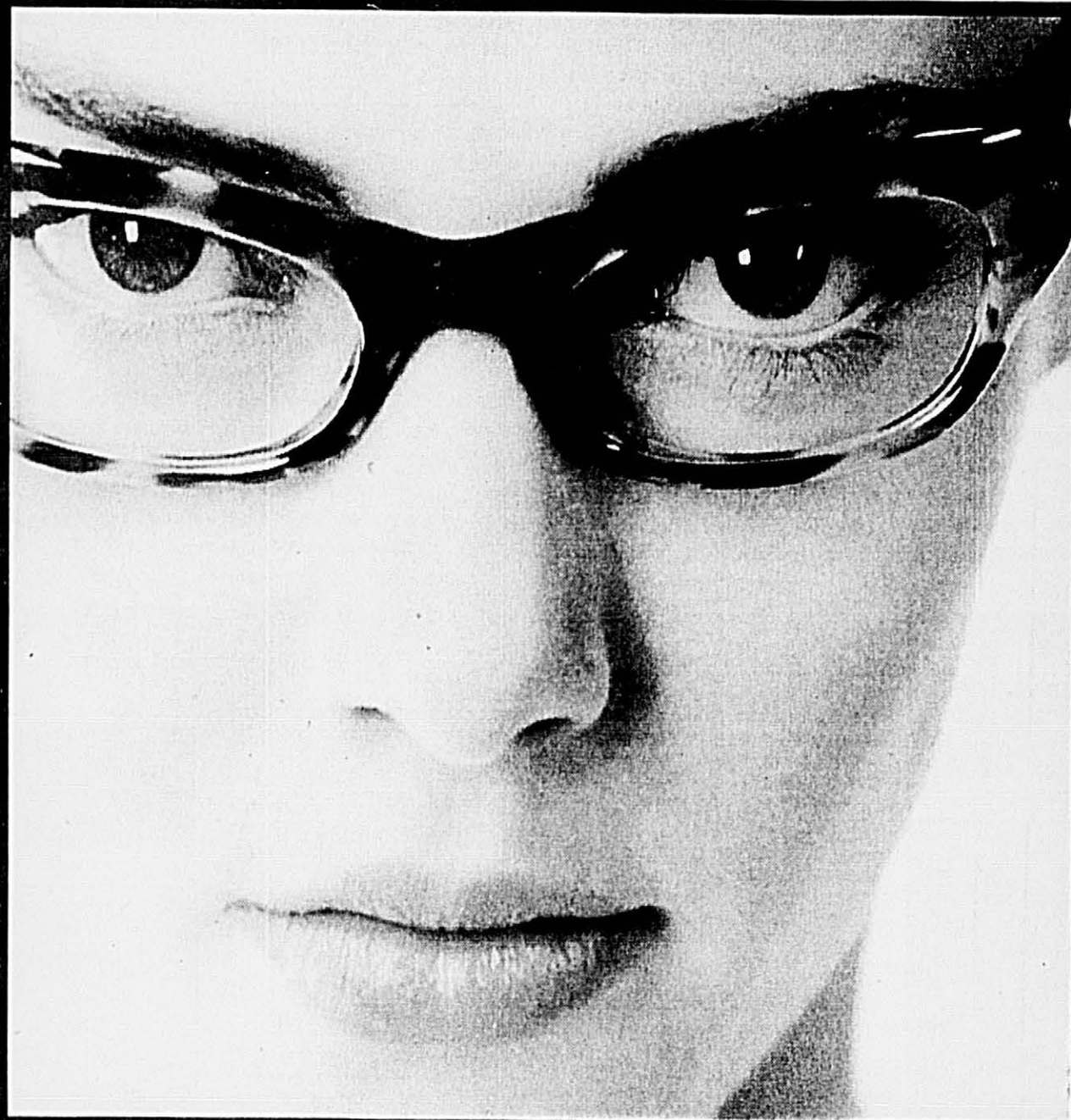
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